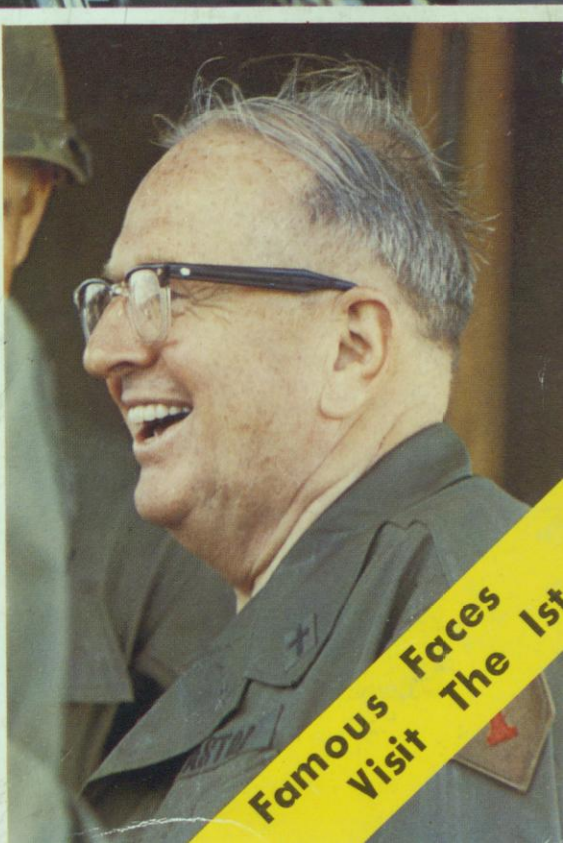
DANGER forward

Fall 1969

The Magazine Of The Big Red One, Vietnam



Famous Faces Visit The 1st

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President Nixon places his hand on the shoulder of a 1st Infantry Division soldier as he talked of brighter moments in the Vietnam Conflict.

Photo by
PFC John Beard

DANGER forward

Volume three, Number two—Fall 1969

The Magazine Of The Big Red One, Vietnam

1st Infantry Division
APO San Francisco 96345

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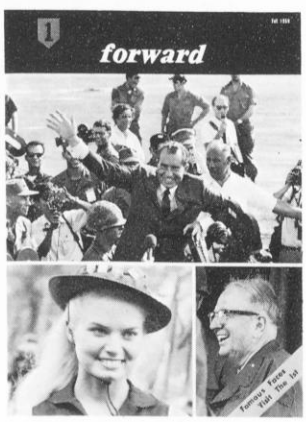

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During the months of July and August the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division were visited by President Richard M. Nixon, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and Miss America, Judi Anne Ford. Photos by PFC John Beard and SP5 Thom Arno

DANGER FORWARD, an authorized quarterly publication of the US Army, provides timely, authoritative information of professional interest on combat operations, revolutionary development programs and combat support procedures of the 1st Infantry Division, Vietnam. It serves as a means of expression for views of the Commanding General and achieves command information objectives of the Department of the Army and the 1st Infantry Division. Material of interest to Division members and the Army in general is invited and should be mailed to: Editor, DANGER FORWARD, Information Office, 1st Infantry Division, APO 96345. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Department of the Army. The magazine is printed at Dai Nippon Printing Co., Ltd., Tokyo. The title DANGER FORWARD is copyrighted by the Society of the 1st Division. Photographs for this issue were taken by 1st Division information specialists and by 121st Signal Battalion photographers.

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SP4 Stuart Richel

The President In Vietnam

Story by SP5 Thom Arno
Photos by PFC John Beard

President Richard M. Nixon made a surprise visit to soldiers of the 2d Brigade base camp in Di An, July 30, with an entourage that included the Honorable Ellsworth Bunker, American Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam; General Creighton W. Abrams, commander of US forces in Vietnam; and scores of Secret Service men.

In making the unannounced stop on his world-wide tour following the successful flight of Apollo 11, President Nixon became the first president to visit a combat base in the Republic of Vietnam.

While in Di An, the President spent most of his time talking to members of the 2d Brigade. He pictured the Vietnam Conflict as worthwhile; as he told the men, "it (Vietnam) may lead to the establishment of enduring peace in Asia." The President said he hoped the conflict "will be brought to an early end in a fashion worthy of the sacrifice of the country's fighting men."

The President arrived by helicopter late in the afternoon at the base camp and was greeted by Major General Orwin C. Talbott, then commanding general of the 1st Division and other members of the command.

Almost immediately, the President's jeep motorcade proceeded to the awards area at the end of the runway, where he pinned Distinguished Service Crosses on Captain Enrique P. Rodriguez of Headquarters and Headquarters Company; First Lieutenant Gary L. Tucker of the Training Command; and Sergeant Michael J. Murray of Company C, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry.

Following the presentation of the medals, the President turned away from a public address system that had been set up at the side of the awards ceremony and chose instead to speak directly to the men. The President called the troops into a tight semi-circle.

"Each war is different," he told them. "This war is the most different that we Americans have ever fought. I want you to know how proud I am to meet a group of Americans doing their duty to help establish a lasting peace."

Mr. Nixon then moved into the group of men from Company C, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, and Company B, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry. Surrounded by camouflaged helmets, jungle fatigues, M16s, M79s and armored personnel carriers, the President shook hands and posed for the soldier-photographers. The companies of men were about to leave on combat operations; one was ready to make a helicopter assault, the other was assigned a night ambush operation.

Many Di An troopers were interested in Nixon's reaction to the Apollo 11 moon landing success.

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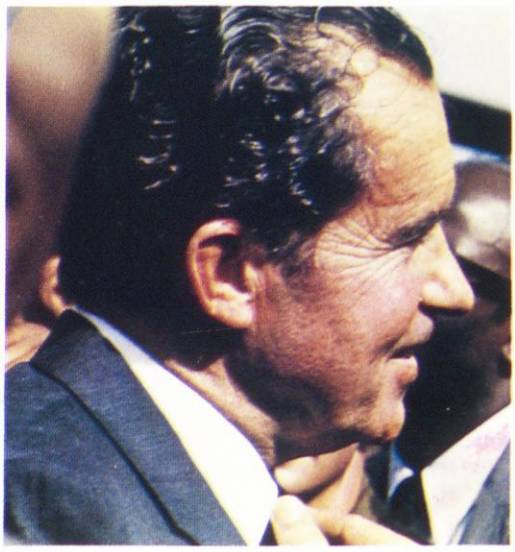
Above, Ambassador to the Republic of Vietnam Ellsworth Bunker and General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV Commander, arrive at Di An to greet the President. At left, President Nixon talks to Division soldiers. Lower left, the President pins Distinguished Service Crosses on three Division soldiers. At far right, the President chats with Major General Orwin C. Talbott, then Big Red One Commander.



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Speaking without a microphone, with one hand in his pocket while the other roved over the sides of his wind-blown hair, the President said, "They (the astronauts) proved we've got some guts left in this country. You guys are doing the same thing."

The President asked many of the men where they came from and in many cases would say something about their local baseball or football teams. As he made the muddy stroll through the rain-soaked area, Mr. Nixon asked the men if the food was good and thanked each man individually for his efforts in the conflict.

Later when a reporter asked the President what the soldier's chief complaint was, the Commander-in-Chief answered, "They don't seem to like the food. Most soldiers like home cooking best."

In a short conversation with Specialist 4 Edward F. Lovett, of Philadelphia, the President spoke of a peaceful time when Lovett could look back on his tour in Vietnam as an education.

"You'll remember what you've done for your country with respect. There's probably a lot of friends you've met over here, and you'll never forget them. The soldiers I've seen here are a great bunch of guys," said Mr. Nixon.

Next the President was driven through the area occupied by aircraft and personnel of the 3d Squadron, 17th Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John B. Fitch, Bellefonte, Pa. He looked at the unit's Cobra gunships and light observation helicopters.

President Nixon continuously motioned for numerous stops along the route at which time he departed from the lead vehicle to talk to the troops.

Each man wore a new helmet cover, equipment was tidied up and as one observer commented later, "bunkers along the perimeter looked as though they had been vacuumed."

For nearly every soldier who became part of the unique visit by the Commander-in-Chief, the day had been a remarkable one. It was a day that made the low moments seem not so bad. As one soldier commented, "I'll really have something to write home about. They'll never believe I actually shook hands with the President of the United States."

One newsman asked a young trooper what he told the President when he said he hoped the war would be over soon. The soldier replied, "I told him we too hoped the war would be over soon, but if he wanted us to stay here for a while, we will."

In a last message before his departure, President Nixon raised his hand and, waving to the soldiers gathered around the motorcade, said, "We'll see you all home."

Nixon then boarded his helicopter for the short ride back to Saigon where he had met earlier in the day with Republic of Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu at the Presidential Palace, and where Mrs. Nixon would meet him after visiting wounded soldiers at a Long Binh hospital.

Sp4 Stuart Richel

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Four Years In Vietnam

SP4 Chris Parsons

Editor's Note: July 12th of this year marked the 1st Infantry Division's fourth anniversary of involvement in the Republic of Vietnam. The following text is an account compiled by the 17th Military History Detachment and 1st Division Information Office personnel of the Big Red One's contributions toward peace and understanding in the Republic of Vietnam. Also chronicled are the Division's major battle confrontations with the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. For a picture of major battles during the past four years, see the Battle Map at the center-fold of this issue of DANGER FORWARD.

Faced with increasing aggression from Communist North Vietnam and widespread terrorist and guerrilla activities of the Viet Cong, the Government of the Republic of Vietnam asked the Free World for assistance in the late 1950's. The United States responded by sending military advisors to work with the South Vietnamese armed forces. By 1965, the situation had reached the point where US combat units had to be called into the battle if South Vietnam was not to be overrun by the Communists. The first US Army division to meet the challenge was quite naturally, the Big Red One.

On Easter Sunday, April 18, 1965, Colonel James E. Simmons, the commander of the 2d Brigade, was notified at Fort Riley, Kansas, that his unit would be the first US Army ground force to be deployed from the continental US. The remainder of April and May was spent preparing for the move. The Brigade Task Force, to be deployed as an independent unit, was augmented with other units of the Division.

In early June, the brigade began loading equipment on flat cars. On the 21st, it departed by rail and plane to California. Arriving at San Francisco International Airport in full combat gear, the troops were transported to the Oakland Terminal where Major General Jonathan O. Seaman, commander of the Division, bade them farewell. Except for an advance party which departed Fort Riley on June 20 to travel by air to Vietnam, the entire brigade (nearly 4,000 men) moved by sea aboard the USNS Gordon. The brigade's equipment was loaded on three ships which left a few days after the Gordon.

On June 25, the lead elements of the Big Red One passed under the Golden Gate Bridge. Soon after the departure, the men were officially informed of their destination by Lieutenant Colonel Edgar N. Glotzbach, the Brigade executive officer. Shipboard days were spent in training, card playing and physical conditioning under crowded conditions as the men speculated on the country and the days ahead.

On July 12, 1965, the men saw Southeast Asia for the first time. Exactly 23 years and 11 days after the advance detachment of the Big Red One had sailed for England in World War II, the first troops of the Division sent to Vietnam went ashore at Cam Ranh Bay. The first element to make the short run to the beach was B Company, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, led by Captain Phillip A. Pryor. The rest of the battalion, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Norman J. Salisbury followed, along with members of the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery. All were greeted on the beach by Colonel Simmons, the brigade commander, and Brigadier General John Norton, deputy commander of US forces in Vietnam.

The Gordon then sailed to deliver the rest of the 2d Brigade to the port city of Vung Tau. There the brigade was greeted by General William C. Westmoreland, then commander of US forces in Vietnam.

The 2d Battalion, 16th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Lloyd Burke, was followed ashore

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All modes of transportation are used to get to areas of contact.

SP4 Chris Parsons

121st Signal Battalion

SP4 Chris Parsons

by the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Haugen and the 1st Battalion, 7th Artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel John Fye III. Other units were C Company, 1st Medical Battalion; B Company, 701st Maintenance Battalion; B Company, 1st Engineer Battalion; and elements of the 1st Supply and Transportation Battalion; 1st Military Police Company and 121st Signal Battalion. From Vung Tau, the brigade moved to a site south of Bien Hoa to begin the task of carving out a base camp.

The Viet Cong wasted little time in testing the newly arrived infantrymen. At 17 minutes past midnight on July 17, the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry "Vanguards" came under heavy mortar fire from an unknown-sized force of Viet Cong. This marked the first time that soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division had been under fire since World War II. The next day, the Big Red One lost its first man killed. For the following six nights, the battalion was under attack and sustained light casualties from VC small arms, automatic weapons and mortar fire. Having proved themselves in defensive positions, the infantrymen began sending out patrols while the construction work continued on their base camps. Staff Sergeant Frank M. Semens was leading his squad when they surprised a small group of VC in a clearing. In the brief fight that followed, one Viet Cong was killed. This was the first confirmed VC killed for the 2d Brigade and the Division. The Big One had indeed arrived.

During the last week in August, the 2d Brigade was conducting operations across the river from the Bien Hoa Air Base in an area honeycombed with bunkers and tunnels. During a firefight, the VC in one of the bunkers put up a stiff resistance. Through a hail of small arms and automatic weapons fire, Specialist 4 Wayne Beck of Rollo, Mo., charged and overran the bunker with his flame thrower. For this act of valor, Specialist Beck was later presented the Silver Star by General Seaman. This was the first Silver Star to be won by a Division soldier in Vietnam.

The 1st and 3d Brigades were at sea on their way to join the 2d Brigade. With them were Division Artillery, Headquarters, supply and maintenance units. Nearly three weeks on the Pacific, a trip that few will forget—the long lines for chow, for movies, for the PX—brought the Division to Vung Tau, the port which had greeted the first elements three months before.

After arrival, the men were airlifted to a staging area near Bien Hoa before moving to scattered base camps. Although the 2d Brigade did not officially join the Division until November 1, the Big Red One was together again. The men of the 2d Brigade were overjoyed at the sight of the new faces. Old friends were reunited. Now over 14,000 men were wearing the patch of the Big Red One in Vietnam.

With the steady flow of troops, supplies, and machines, the Big Red One was ready to operate at full strength. Real estate was acquired for the establishment of base camps at Di An, Phuoc Vinh, Lai Khe and Phu Loi in addition to the area occupied by the 2d Brigade at Bien Hoa. This brigade and the 173d Airborne Brigade received the mission to clear the area around the new base camps and provide security until the camps were established. With the Division Headquarters located at Di An, the Big Red One was ready to accomplish its mission.

Primary emphasis during the next two weeks was placed on improving living conditions and expanding US and Vietnamese government influence throughout the areas surrounding these new base camps. Land lines of communication connecting the four division base camps covered a distance of approximately 150 kilometers. Initial combat operations during late October began to locate and upset the insurgent forces. As the soldiers of the Big Red One pushed onward, new names began to appear on the way—Thunder Road, the Hobo Woods, the Iron Triangle, the Trapezoid, Michelin, the Catcher's Mitt and the Fish-hook. This was to be the Division's hunting ground for the next four years.

The Battle of BAU BANG occurred on November 12 and was the first major contact with the enemy. With Howitzer crews from the 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery battering away against an estimated VC regiment, it wasn't too long before the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry took complete control over the area. By the end of the day, a total of 185 VC bodies were counted close to the perimeter. The Division had its first real taste of war in Vietnam and its first victory.

The need for a better means of transportation was inevitable as the Big Red One began to spread its area of operation. A road construction mission nicknamed ROLLING STONE, conducted by the 1st Brigade and 1st Engineer Battalion, began February 10, 1966, and continued through March 2 in the area south of Lai Khe.

The purpose of ROLLING STONE was to provide an all-weather road between Highways 13 and 16 which would open the area to government influence. VC main forces, estimated at nearly 2,000 strong, attacked the project at Tan Binh in an attempt to halt the threat to their area of operation. After bitter hours of hard fighting, the enemy retreated leaving 135 of their dead on the battlefield. The 17 kilometers of road were completed and the Division moved on.

Operation BIRMINGHAM, the Big Red One's first large operation, again proved to the enemy that the 1st Infantry Division was here to stay. During the summer of 1966, War Zone C was invaded, resulting in a large cache of VC supplies and ammunition. At the same time, Division forces along with the 5th ARVN Division halted a massive VC offensive against Highway 13, the Division's main supply route. Although heavily outnumbered, the Big Red One fought its way to victory, killing 825 of the enemy.

During the 1966 monsoon season, the Division inflicted paralyzing losses on the Phu Loi Battalion, a main force VC unit. The enemy unit has not challenged the Fighting First since that time, and a comparative degree of stability was brought to southern Binh Duong Province. In operations AMARILLO and BATON ROUGE, the heart of the VC and NVA forces was given a crippling blow. Many enemy base camps were located and destroyed, thus disrupting the enemy build-up threatening shipping channels between Saigon and the sea.

In November, the Big Red One again entered War Zone C, this time to aid the embattled 196th Light Infantry Brigade and the 25th Infantry Division. In this encounter, Operation ATTLEBORO, the Fighting First engaged the 9th VC Division and the 101st NVA Regiment causing more than 1,000 enemy deaths. The Viet Cong forces received a resounding defeat but they weren't going to quit, and the Big Red One moved on.

The first half of 1967 saw two major operations in which the Division not only defeated the enemy but also gained a stronghold in the Iron Triangle.

The greatest setback to VC activities in the area of the 1st Division came in January, when Operation CEDAR FALLS resulted in nine square kilometers of jungle in the Iron Triangle being cleared. This operation deprived the VC of its foremost operational base for its activities against the Saigon area. Three hundred eighty-nine VC were killed, 180 detained and several underground enemy complexes were destroyed. The most important factor, though, was the number of enemy, 576, that rallied to the government side through the Chieu Hoi program.

The size of operations continued to increase as enemy forces began pressuring the Big Red One. In February, March and April the Division launched Operation JUNCTION CITY in War Zone C. The Big Red One, augmented by elements of the 9th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade, 11th

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Armored Cavalry Regiment and an ARVN cavalry troop and ranger battalion, met and defeated the four regiments of the 9th Viet Cong Division during this important operation. Besides destroying numerous bunker complexes and enemy base camps, a total of 1,809 VC were killed, making it the largest operation to date in the Vietnam Conflict.

The 1st Infantry Division deployed two brigades in War Zone D during Operation SHENANDOAH II in October and November. This operation opened up Highway 13 all the way to Loc Ninh. When a VC division attacked the Loc Ninh District, the Big Red One, in conjunction with ARVN and District forces, defeated the enemy and forced him to retreat into jungle sanctuaries after suffering more than 1,000 casualties. The opening of Highway 13 has increased government influence by allowing relatively free movement between Saigon and Binh Long Province.

In January 1968, intelligence sources indicated that VC and NVA forces would attack key government headquarters and ARVN installations. The primary drive against the Saigon area would coincide with the Tet holiday period. In response, the Big Red One forces were deployed along Highway 13 from Lai Khe to Loc Ninh in an attempt to isolate War Zones C and D from each other.

After 40 days of intensive counter-offensive operations, often characterized by bitter street-fighting the Big Red One had destroyed or neutralized the insurgent forces. By the end of February, more than 1500 enemy had been killed since the beginning of Tet and more than 150 individual enemy weapons, supplies, ammunition and enemy documents were captured.

With the southern area of the Big Red One's tactical zone recovering, the battleground again moved north, this time to Loc Ninh. Elements of the 1st Brigade conducted extensive reconnaissance - in - force missions and sweep operations resulting in a total of 512 enemy killed and the destruction of more than 50 bunker complexes. It was during this period that, on September 13, 1968, the command helicopter of Major General Keith L. Ware was shot down by hostile fire. There were no survivors.

The Division kept moving north, operating against the 1st NVA Division in the Fish-hook area along the Cambodian border. The 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry "Black Lions" fought off an estimated two NVA battalions trying to overrun a Night Defensive Position (NDP). With the help of artillery, helicopter gunships and numerous air strikes, the Black Lions eliminated 86 of the enemy while fighting in the marshy, swamp area surrounding the NDP.

The new year brought another post-Tet-offensive by the enemy, but the Big Red One was there to stop the aggressors. In heavy fighting just east of the Michelin Rubber Plantation, elements of the 26th Infantry and 28th Infantry became involved in a sweep nicknamed ATLAS WEDGE, conducted during the Toan Thang Offinsive.

In early March, 1st Division units and the 11th ACR, under operational control of the Big Red One, killed more than 600 NVA and VC and destroyed 50 bunker complexes while capturing 13 of the enemy during the two-week battle. The March body count totalled 720, many of which were credited to skillfully-executed night ambushes, causing the enemy to withdraw every time he planned an offensive.

June saw the 1st Brigade move its base camp from Quan Loi to Dau Tieng, where it has continued intensive operations around the Michelin Rubber Plantation and Trapezoid, working closely with the 5th ARVN Division. On June 6, the 25th Anniversary of "D-Day," a large NVA force ambushed elements of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry. This encounter resulted in a total of 79 enemy casualties. Two more days of bitter fighting in the An Loc and Quan Loi area also spelled defeat for the enemy as the 11th ACR, along with the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry "Black Lions," accounted for more than 100 enemy casualties while destroying numerous bunker complexes.

The body count for June totalled 782, the highest enemy casualty rate in 1969 for the Big Red One. Major General Orwin C. Talbott, then 1st Infantry Division commander, praised his troops by stating, "The enemy appeared in several areas around the An Loc-Quan Loi area. In every instance, our forces were present in the same areas with overwhelming strength. In all my military experience, I have never seen our American soldiers do a more magnificent job."

Division brigades have been equally concerned with locating main force VC and NVA units, the critical pacification campaign and the equally important task of upgrading ARVN battalions. Providing security and assistance for ARVN and Government units, implementing civic and PSYOPs goals, establishing effective population and resource control systems, and destroying the VC propaganda system are just some of the many important tasks the three brigades have accomplished in the past few months.

As the Big Red One keeps pushing forward, the enemy becomes more desparate. In August, the VC and NVA launched a series of attacks as part of what was labeled the "AUTUMN CAMPAIGN" which the Division met with devastating might.

Spearheaded by the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry and the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, the Big Red One is now providing security for Highway 13 north of Lai Khe. Under the Big Red One umbrella, the vital tasks of pacification and civic action programs successfully continue, thus making it possible for a strong democratic government and a better society for the people of the Republic of Vietnam to develop.

Four years of fighting and determination by the Big Red One have brought the Vietnamese people a step closer toward peace and understanding, an accomplishment never before realized by the unfortunate victims of Communist aggression. They have never known the meaning of such terms as "democracy" or "freedom." Because of the perseverance of the Big Red One, this dream is becoming more of a reality with the passing of time. For the people of the Republic of Vietnam, it is a long-awaited answer to an endless life of combating outside aggression.

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SP4 Chris Parsons

Like bugle calls and parade field marching, mud has always been part of the Army. From the rice paddies and farm lands to the battle areas along the roadsides and in the jungles, the 1st Division soldier is constantly fighting the elements of nature.

121st Signal Battalion

SP4 Chris Parsons

PFC John Beard

From left, Helen Gennings, Miss Arkansas; Kathi Goff, Miss Missouri; Janet Hatfield, Miss Kentucky; Judi Anne Ford, Miss America; Pat Burmeister, Miss New York; Charlotte Sims, Miss Minnesota; and Linda Wilmer, Miss New Jersey.

A Date With Miss America

A caravan of spit-shined jeeps containing the "seven most beautiful American girls in Vietnam" stopped at the Bob Hope stage in Di An on August 15 to present a memorable hour-and-a-half-long show of song and dance before hundreds of Big Red One troops.

The early morning show kicked off a day-long handshake tour that took the girls to every corner of the 1st Division's area of operations, from Lai Khe and Dau Tieng to a riverine patrol on the upper Saigon River near Phu Cuong.

The reigning Miss America, Miss Judi Anne Ford, from Illinois, was the star of the USO-sponsored event, but sharing equal billing were state beauty queens: Charlotte Sims, Miss Minnesota; Pat Burmeister, Miss New York; Kathi Goff, Miss Missouri; Linda Wilmer, Miss New Jersey; Helen Gennings, Miss Arkansas; and Janet Hatfield, Miss Kentucky.

The girls arrived August 10 to begin their three week USO tour that eventually took them to most of the American military division outposts in Vietnam.

Their song and dance presentation at Di An marked the only stage entertainment the girls were able to offer Big Red One soldiers in their tight-scheduled visit to the 1st Division.

From Judi Ford's opening remarks that "We're not really professional entertainers; we're just American girls," the audience let out a steady stream of applause.

The high point of the Di An show was when the girls walked into the audience to select partners to dance with them on stage.

The 19-year-old Miss Ford, who relinquished her title in September when Pamela Anne Eldred, of Detroit, was crowned in Atlantic City, gave one of her final gymnastic exhibitions as Miss America.

A champion sportswoman for the last several years, Judi Ford won the title Junior Women's Trampoline Champion in Dallas last year. She

Judi Anne Ford, Miss America 1969

Janet Hatfield admires the scenery from her helicopter viewpoint.

PFC John Beard

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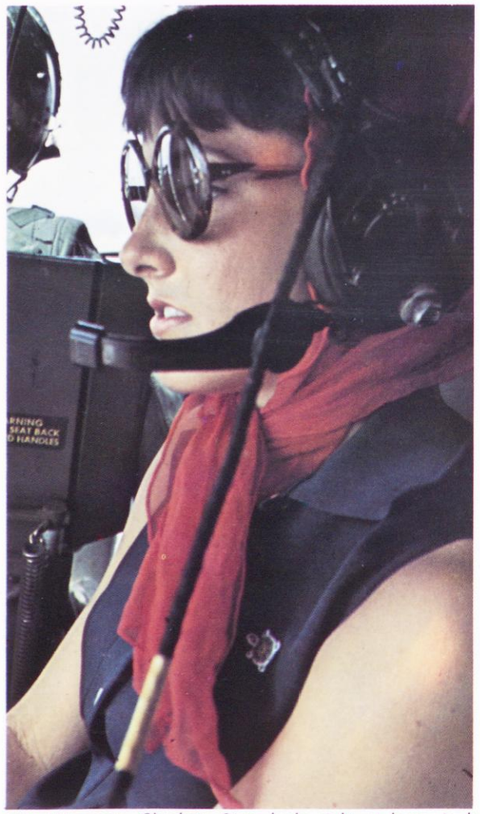


Miss Minnesota, Charlotte Sims, looks right at home in her helicopter gear.

SP5 Thom Arno

Miss New Jersey poses for an eager soldier-photographer.

PFC John Beard

Miss Kentucky gets a helping hand down the deck after her ride on a river patrol boat.

went on to place second in the Junior Women's AAU Trampoline Championships in Long Beach, Calif. She was also selected as one of the participants on the US gymnastics team last year and later represented the United States during an exhibition in Vienna.

One of the unplanned surprises in Di An was the sudden appearance of Specialist Bill Hetland, a neighborhood friend of Miss America's from her hometown of Belvedere, Ill.

As the news editor of the DeKalb Journal in Belvedere, Bill had followed Judi Ford's athletic events through high school and into college, so it was only natural that Miss America let out a scream and shouted, "Bill" when she spied her friend sitting in the audience.

Leaving Di An by helicopter, the girls flew to Lai Khe and Division Headquarters. They were greeted by a number of soldiers, armed with their cameras and another line of jeeps that took them this time to the Special Services building, where they met with crowds of enlisted men and officers hoping for a chance to pose with the beauty queens in a quick snapshot and obtain an autograph or two.

After eating lunch at 3d Brigade Headquarters, the girls visited Charlie Medical Company, including the 2d Surgical Hospital, one of the four unique rubberized, inflatable hospitals in South Vietnam.

The girls met the wounded, talking to the patients about hometowns and signing their casts and autographing scraps of paper.

Perhaps one of the most surprised patients was a young Cambodian turned Kit Carson Scout, whose first day in any hospital was marked by the visit of Miss America.

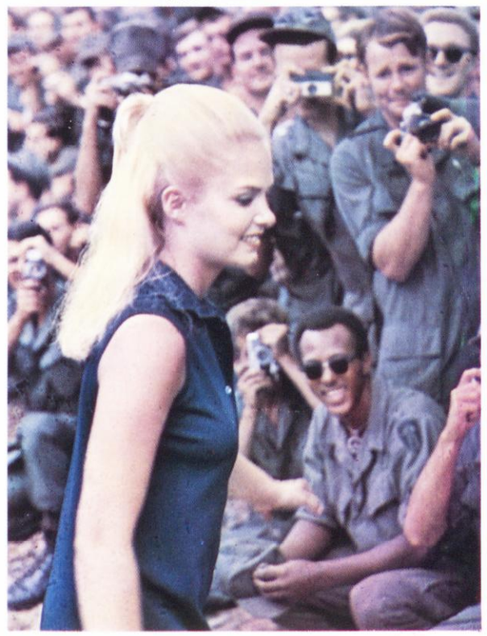
Later, during a tour of the Delta Medical Company facilities at Dau Tieng, Kathi Goff, Miss Missouri, related, "I was really excited when they asked me to come to Vietnam. Now that I'm here, it's really not the same as you read in the newspapers. We're learning a lot more about life than we could have learned at home."

New Jersey's Linda Wilmer, who had just celebrated her 21st birthday in Vietnam, called the Big Red One soldiers, "The greatest audience in the world. The only thing I ever wanted out of the Miss America pageant was to be able to come to Vietnam to see and meet the soldiers here," she said.

New York's Pat Burmeister added that "I'm glad we can do something here, where the men are doing so much."

When asked for her impressions of the American GI in Vietnam, Minnesota's Charlotte Sims, who entertained American soldiers last year in Korea and Japan as a member of another USO troop, said simply, "They're just guys. What else can I say? We just want them to hurry up and come home."

Miss America in Lai Khe



SP5 Thom Arno

Miss New Jersey signs autographs in Di An for Division soldiers.

PFC John Beard

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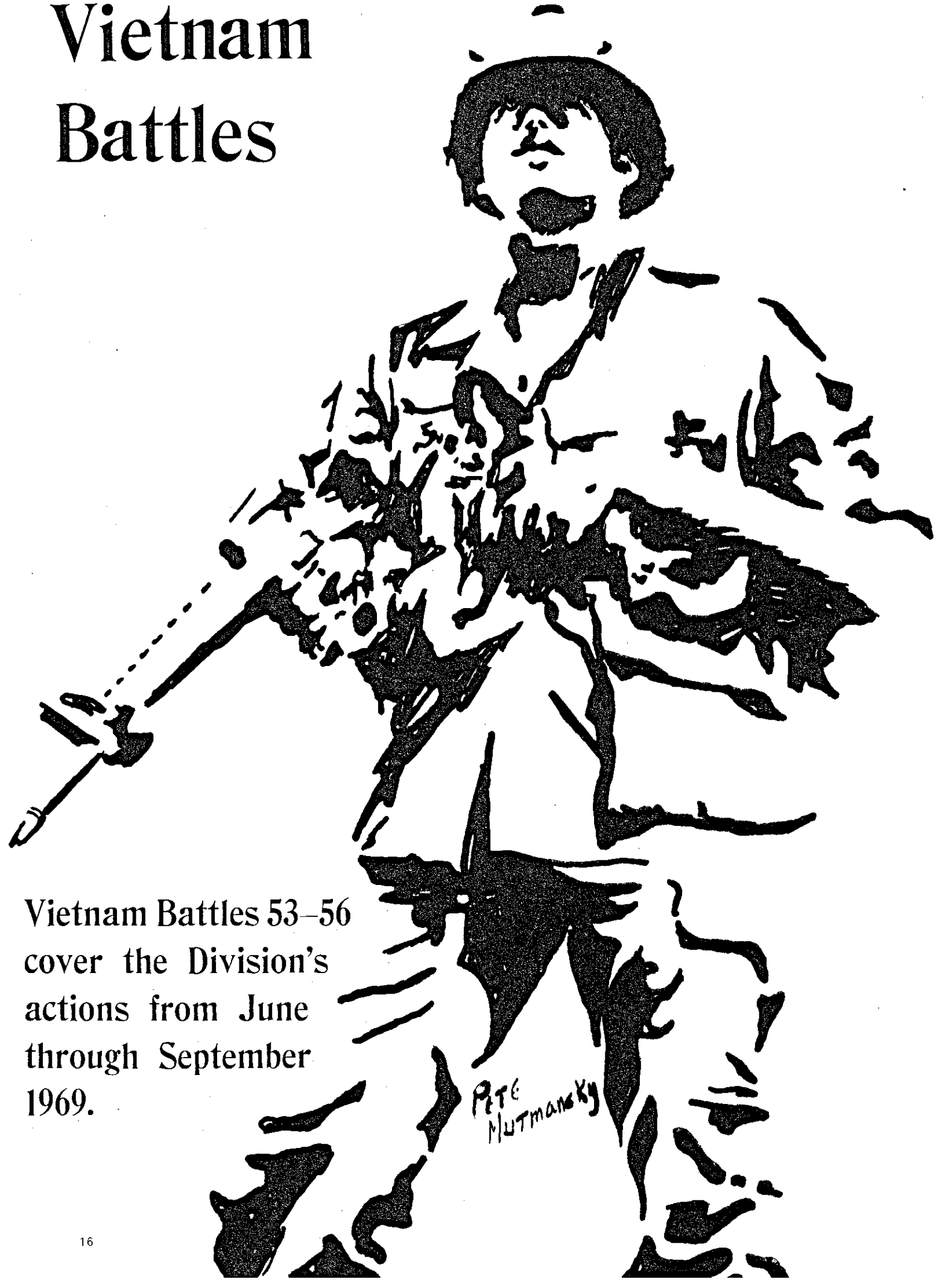
Vietnam Battles



Vietnam Battles 53–56 cover the Division's actions from June through September 1969.

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During the months of July, August and the first week of September, the Big Red One continued phase III of Operation TOAN THANG by conducting ground reconnaissance, night patrols and Viet Cong infrastructure neutralization operations to deny the enemy base-area utilization. The Division continued to interdict Viet Cong and North Vietnamese infiltration to the south, disrupt enemy logistical operations and continued to eliminate Viet Cong infrastructure in populated areas.

Troops of the Big Red One spent the month of July in constant pursuit of the enemy, but because of their elusive retreats the Division was held to only a few large contacts with enemy forces. The month's battle activity ended with 415 enemy killed.

On July 3, two major actions fought by armored units of the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, ten miles southwest of Lai Khe, accounted for 34 enemy deaths. The 1st Division's Quarter Cav. elements killed an additional three Viet Cong near Dau Tieng. Other sporadic activity accounted for eight additional enemy deaths, bringing the daily total to 45 enemy killed.

On July 12, the Viet Cong offered heavy opposition to recon-in-force patrols, but Division soldiers battled back, killing 25. The next day, alert recon elements located a cache 14 miles west of Lai Khe.

ARVN forces operating in the area located 33 cases of .50 caliber ammunition, 108 60mm rounds, 90 B-40 rounds, sixty 57mm recoilless rifle rounds, 130 hand grenades and 30 rifles.

After suffering both tactical and psychological defeats from the Big Red One, the enemy again fled the pursuing allied forces. In seven days, 77 enemy were killed. No major US casualties were reported for that period, and the Viet Cong were kept on the run, unable to inflict any damage.

Sporadic struggles yielded only mild action for the Big Red One during the first weeks of August.

In an effort to trap large groups of Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Regulars, determined infantrymen of the 1st Division conducted numerous search and destroy missions outside the base camps and surrounding areas of Lai Khe, Di An, Dau Tieng, Ben Cat and other combat zones. Even though there were no major engagements, 72 enemy were killed during the period August 1 through August 9.

Viet Cong and North Vietnamese battalion-sized groupings attacked resupply convoys on Thunder Road on August 12, 14 and 20. They were stopped cold at each effort by the armored elements of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry; 2d Battalion, 34th Armor; and the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry.

The 1st Division encountered its heaviest action of the season during the first week of September, killing 197 enemy soldiers.

On September 5, the enemy attempted to overrun Fire Support Base Thunder III, ten miles north of Lai Khe. The action flared until daybreak as elements of the 2d Battalion (Mech.), 2d Infantry successfully held the enemy at bay. At one point on the perimeter, the enemy cut the wire and headed for the heart of the base camp, only to run straight into the sights of a starlight scope. A final sweep of the perimeter conducted the next morning revealed 23 enemy killed.

On September 6, Alpha Company of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry repelled and subdued another enemy attack on a northbound resupply convoy on Thunder Road. Alpha Company was the security element for the convoy when an unknown number of 82mm mortars landed around the end elements of the convoy. The North Vietnamese followed the mortars with a barrage of small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire, launching a two-hour firefight in which the Big Red One countered with offensive actions from tanks, tracks, gunships, air strikes and artillery fire.

The final total for the contact was 55 enemy killed and five detainees captured.

The following pages describe the battle actions and operations in detail.

SP4 Dominic Sondy

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PFC John Beard

OPERATION IN AN SON

VIETNAM BATTLES—53

A new technique for fighting the enemy in Vietnam was put into effect during a month-long operation in June. Elements of the Big Red One and forces of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam teamed up to secure an area which was once the hub of Viet Cong operations.

Elements of the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry; the 1st Battalion, 7th ARVN Regiment; and Regional Force companies were given the task of locating and eliminating main force units of the Dong Nai Regiment. The enemy had infiltrated the An Son area, ten miles north of Saigon.

The assignment proved to be a major step in the Big Red One's pacification program in the 2d Brigade area of operation.

The going was rough for Allied forces. They had to cope with the worst fighting conditions, as well as the enemy. The operation began in early June when the monsoon season seemed like an eternity for the "grunt." Much of the area was dense foliage, waterways and swamp. It was a confined area that had previously been free of extended friendly operations because of the difficulty of moving in this type of terrain. Because of this, the enemy would hide in the numerous bunkers they had built and pick their own time to proceed with their aggression.

This changed within the next few weeks, however. The operation came right after a two-day battle (June 2 and 3) involving the 82d Airborne Division, which already had accounted for the death of 36 Viet Cong. The Big Red One moved in with artillery fire following the reassignment of the 82d to another area of operation. Then, infantry troops from both the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry and the 1st Battalion, 7th ARVN Regiment brought pressure on the enemy until it had to retreat and regroup its forces.

Constant pressure by the 1st Division kept the enemy running for their lives.

"We went on 24-hour operations, patrolling during the day and setting up ambushes at night," explained Specialist 4 Mike Carleton of Cleveland, Ohio. The M-79 bearer for Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry added, "It took a lot of energy out of us but it was all worth the trouble. We got the job done and that's what counts."

Gradually, the atmosphere of the whole operation began to change. Sergeant Duane Maddock of Los Angeles was one of the soldiers who sensed this feeling. "After the first few contacts, it seemed that the enemy was running more than they usually did."

"The enemy started to get careless. The bunkers we found weren't built very sturdy or concealed as well as in previous operations," said Sergeant Maddock. He added, "We found many rifles that had started to rust, and the enemy respects their weapons as well as we do. We all got the feeling that they just didn't care."

There must have been a good reason for the change of attitude by the insurgent forces. Even the boobytrap techniques, which were constantly used earlier in the operation, were now either discontinued or carelessly used. The credit for this drastic change of events goes to the efforts of the Psychological Operations Team (PSYOPs) working with the Big Red One.

Even though the infantry was responsible for eliminating 45 VC while detaining 23 enemy soldiers, it was the outstanding work of the PSYOPs teams which resulted in 15 Hoi Chanh. A special technique was used in the An Son area, and it proved to be the right solution for the type of operation being conducted. Loudspeaker broadcasts from aircraft, river boats and vehicles were transmitted in accordance with a coordinated maneuver and broadcast schedule. During previously announced periods of one-hour duration, the Allied forces would cease effective operations to allow enemy troops to rally.

Enemy forces received detailed instructions through the loudspeaker transmission and through contacts with trained propaganda teams as to the best procedures to be used in rallying. Thousands of leaflets were dropped from aircraft, urging the enemy to rally to the Government's side. The results showed they did just that.

Some of the VC rallied because they were tired of fighting. Some had other reasons. "Many of the Hoi Chanh coming into the base camp were suffering from wounds that had been infected for more than two weeks," said Specialist 4 Larry Jones, Walla Walla, Wash., a medic with the 2d Battalion, 18th Infantry. He added, "We were kept busy all the time, treating the wounded and helping out in any way we could. It seemed strange that only a few hours before treating these people, they were ready to kill me!"

"We didn't know a great deal about the area we were operating in, but with the knowledge and skill the ARVNs brought with them, it didn't take long before we were breathing down Charlie's back," said Private First Class Steven L. Burican, of Milwaukee, Wis.

In many ways the battle proved to be one of the most important battles for the Big Red One thus far. It brought out a new way of defeating the enemy, a chance for the ARVN soldier to show his military skills and it added to the 1st Division's long list of successfully completed pacification programs.

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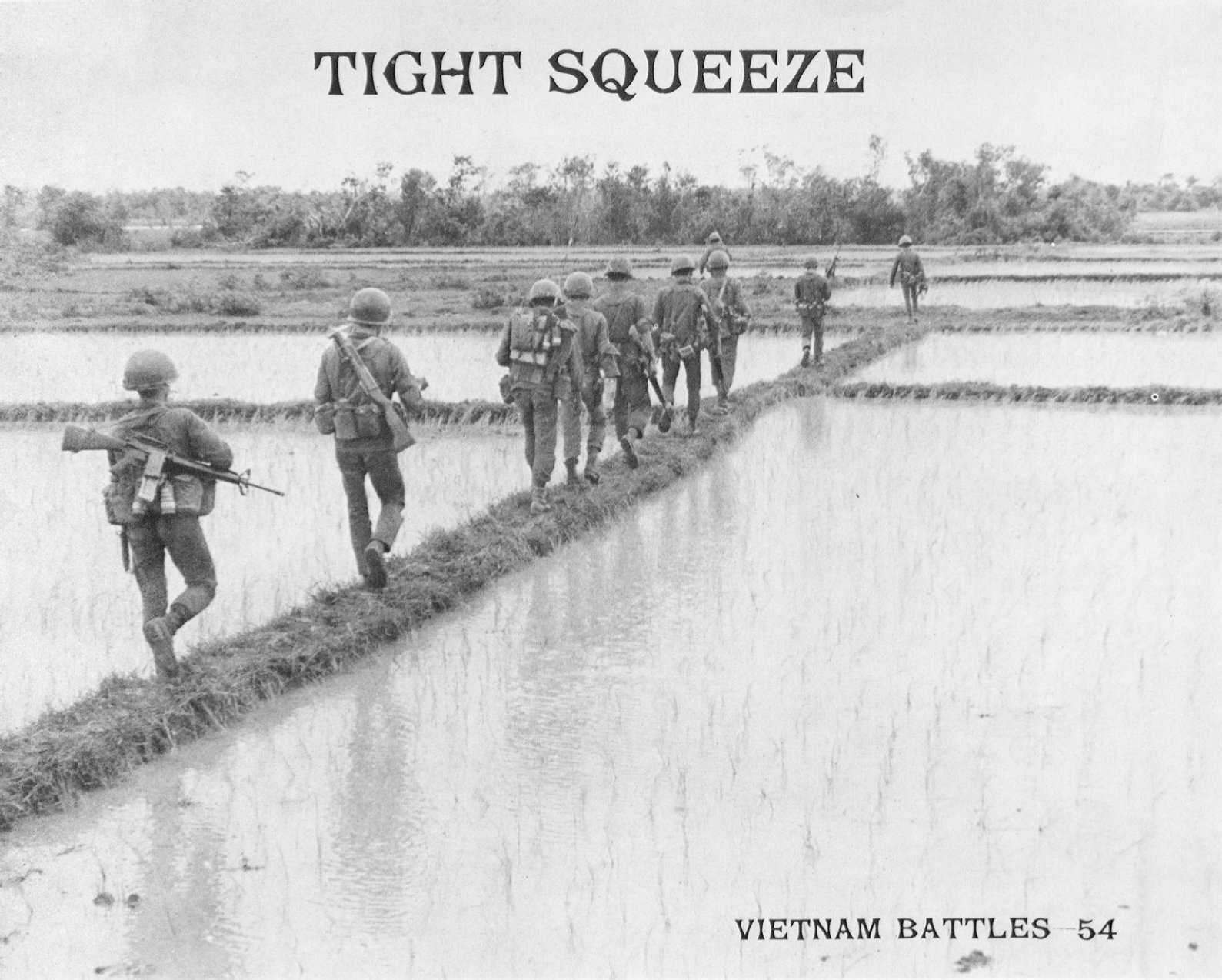
TIGHT SQUEEZE



SP4 Chris Parsons

SP4 Chris Parsons

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On July 21, the Big Red One began a concentrated approach against a Viet Cong district heavily occupied by enemy forces, using previous methods of warfare in addition to several new techniques which are expected to eventually eliminate enemy infiltration.

The mission started under the control of the 3d Brigade, but the responsibility has now switched to the 1st Brigade. Its purpose is to restrict the flow of supplies and enemy forces through the Trapezoid and the Michelin Rubber Plantation, and over the Tay Ninh and Saigon Rivers. The job of the Big Red One is to interdict the enemy on his way to and from these resupply areas and to prevent him from obtaining the supplies and equipment he needs so desperately.

The unit has made use of ambushes on known or suspected river crossing sites, using riverine forces to patrol the rivers and search their tributaries. Ground reconnaissance operations along each river, near suspected cache areas, village "sealing," nighttime visual reconnaissance aircraft, and newly developed radar devices to detect enemy movement are also being utilized.

By employing this wide range of resources, the Big Red One has upset the enemy and limited his ability to survive and operate effectively.

An important asset to this operation has been the destruction of enemy base camps with Rome Plows and armored units. In addition, Big Red One artillery fire has denied the enemy many of his suspected base camps.

The success of this operation has depended on the use of small unit operations. Units of the Big Red One joined with those of the 5th ARVN Division in an effort to eliminate the enemy forces. A part of the "Dong Tien" program, these combined operations have proved to be a definite asset towards the final attrition of the enemy in the area.

The importance of eliminating the enemy's lifeline along the Saigon River is credited to the combined efforts of the US Riverine Division, the Republic of Vietnam Navy, and Iron Brigade soldiers. During the month of June they stifled 14 enemy attempts to cross the river in a span of two weeks.

On July 21, an unknown enemy force attempted to cross the Saigon River.

"We had been working with the PBR boats for five days and that was our first opportunity to engage the enemy," related Sergeant First Class R. C. Sweeten, a platoon leader with Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. The native of Suphur, Oklahoma, added, "We flushed them out with the use of our ambush tactics and the gun boats finished them off."

The results of this contact were seven enemy dead plus the capture of enemy supplies and ammunition. Radar sightings detected 23 more enemy moves which were immediately fired upon by Big Red One artillery. The continued success of these riverine operations led to the establishment of a radar operating base at Ben Suc Ferry, plus an extensive sensor field north of the Saigon River. This proved to be a most successful target device for artillery units operating in the area.

The "Picture Frame" concept was also added to the operation during this period of time. Its objective is to clear the land in the Trapezoid area by the use of Rome Plows. The proposed method that has been used to good advantage is one which dissects a given area into small and more manageable pieces of terrain. This makes it easier to cover areas with artillery fire when the need arises. Search operations and radar capabilities were also improved by using this method.

On July 22, a "seal" was conducted by the "Black Lions" of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, working with the 1st Battalion, 8th ARVN Regiment, in the village of Than An, three miles southeast of Dau Tieng. The results of this seal were seven VC killed, 37 detainees and one rallier.

"Bravo Company was in the village the day before we moved in to secure the area," replied Sergeant John Babcock of Portland, Oregon, who was with Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. He added, "We moved around the village the next day and laid out special concertina wire. Some of us checked out tunnels for traces of the enemy but results were negative. Inside the village the ARVNs took control immediately. They really cleaned out the village."

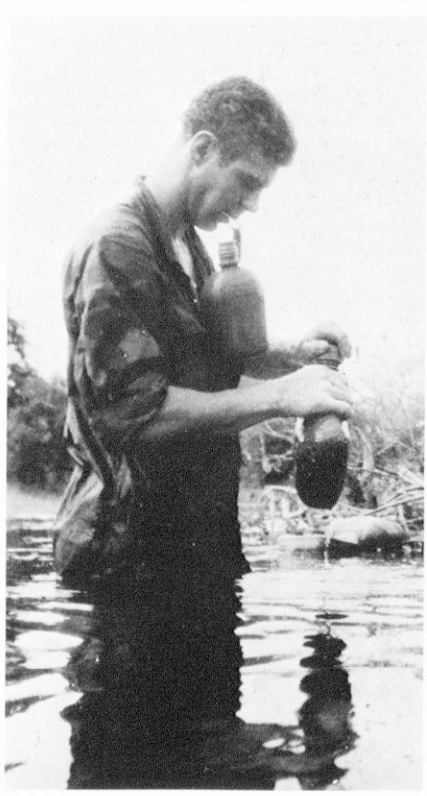
In the early part of August, a five day seal of Ben Chu, a village four miles southeast of Dau Tieng, was conducted by elements of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry; 1st Battalion, 8th ARVN Regiment and 4th Battalion, 8th ARVN Regiment.

"We had just returned from an ambush out in the Keystone area when we were called in to provide security for Ben Chua. It was pretty dark and we had to keep close to each other so we wouldn't become separated," described Private First Class Phillip Pritchard, Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. The native of Mannington, West Virginia, added, "We positioned ourselves around the village, then searched a few tunnels, but found nothing."

Again, the ARVNs made a thorough investigation inside the village and had favorable results. They gleaned a total of four ralliers and located a cache containing one 82mm mortar tube and 352 grenades.

On July 25, elements of the 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, along with the 4th Battalion, 8th Regiment (ARVN), engaged an enemy of unknown size in a bunker complex seven miles northwest of Lai Khe. The Viet Cong returned fire and shortly thereafter a hunter-killer team entered the area to support the contact. During the course of the fighting, the Command and Control helicopter of the 11th ACR received fire resulting in moderate damage. It landed safely at Fire Support Base Nancy. The bitter fighting continued and, when a sweep of the area was made, 12

SP4 Chris Parsons



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enemy dead, three detainees, 10 AK-47s and an RPG launcher with 6 RPG rounds were found.

The Aero Rifle Platoon (ARPs) received fire from an estimated company of Viet Cong on July 28. The fighting was heavy and help was needed. "The ARPs were pinned down by the enemy, so they called in Delta Company to get them out," declared Private First Class John Civale, Reconnaissance Platoon, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. The native from Tucson, Arizona, explained that, "they called us in because Delta was having their problems too. We couldn't get close either, even to communicate with them."

Private First Class Albert Medina of Ogden, Utah, recalled, "We were right on top of the berm when the enemy engaged us. We threw grenades at them, but it didn't work as well as we expected it to. So we called in the Mech and they finally got through and rescued the ARPs."

Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 2d (Mech.) Infantry remained in the area overnight and made sporadic contact until early afternoon. Enemy losses were 20 killed, six detainees and numerous supplies and ammunition.

The middle of August saw two successful nighttime ambushes by Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, five miles east of Dau Tieng. The "bushes" were identical both nights and were popped at approximately the same time, although their locations were 200 meters apart.

"We usually go on ambush three out of every four nights and lately things had been unusually quiet," said Staff Sergeant Ronald Hathaway, a platoon sergeant for Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry. "However, the second night out, my right flank security, PFC John Rafinski, heard some movement and we waited until the right moment and then popped the ambush on them," replied the native of Fabious, New York.

He added, "The next night we set up 200 meters down the trail and John spotted movement again. We just couldn't believe that we had so many NVA in the area the second night. We must have done a good job the preceding night, or they wouldn't have come down the same trail. I am just proud of all my men. They did an outstanding job, truly a team effort."

The two ambushes were executed in a unique terrain covered by bomb craters, tall grass and thick bamboo. Sergeant Hathaway and PFC Rafinski received Bronze Stars with "V" devices from Major General A. E. Milloy, 1st Infantry Division commander, for their outstanding performance.

On August 27, a helicopter working for Bravo Company, 2d Battalion 2d (Mech) Infantry, engaged an unknown number of enemy five miles southeast of Dau Tieng. Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry was diverted to the area and immediately supported the contact. The Aero Rifle Platoon was inserted before the fighting finally ended. A search of the area resulted in 14 VC dead, one detainee, three crew-served weapons, 14 individual weapons, ammunition, supplies and enemy documents.

The drive against the enemy continues by combined Allied Forces, but its success in the past has shown that the Big Red One is well on its way towards accomplishing its mission, to eliminate the Viet Cong in the various districts.

With the use of Rome Plows, hunter-killer teams, Nighthawks and other new techniques, the enemy forces are slowly being squeezed dry. It is only a matter of time.

From left, Sergeant Malchi Adkins, a field radio operator, and Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth J. Sweeney, commanding officer of the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, scan the skies awaiting a resupply helicopter.

SP4 Chris Parsons

Division soldiers take cover during an August convoy ambush assault on Highway 13. SP4 Stuart Riche

AMBUSH ON THUNDER ROAD

VIETNAM BATTLES—55

Highway 13 is the 1st Infantry Division's main supply route between Saigon and Quan Loi. Big Red One control of the now famous route known as "Thunder Road" was won after many hard-fought battles with communist forces.

In recent months, more than 100 convoys from Long Binh and Di An have traveled north to Quan Loi carrying essential war supplies. The 3d Brigade of the Big Red One, known as the Iron Brigade, is charged with keeping open a 22-mile stretch of the road.

Suspecting that the enemy would soon strike in the 3d Brigade area of the road, Iron Brigade Commander Colonel Elmer D. Pendleton, on August 12, moved Alpha and Charlie Companies of the 2d Battalion (Mech.), 2d Infantry from the Iron Triangle up to outpost Highway 13.

As it turned out, it was a decision that was to cost the North Vietnamese heavy losses. Charlie Company, commanded by Captain Carrol J. Howard of Trenton, N.J., outposted his forces north of Fire Support Base Thunder III. As the large resupply convoy moving north reached Charlie Company's position, an undetermined-sized NVA force struck from concealment.

What they struck was not the convoy they were waiting for, but rather the tracks of the Iron Fist, which were outposted along the road. The NVA blew two bridges signaling the start of the ambush and cutting off five vehicles. As the NVA troops leaped from their spider holes they ran into the armored vehicles sitting before them.

Captain Howard had positioned his headquarters element in just the right place to block effective enemy action.

"My medic track, mechanic track and command track were on line as the headquarters platoon position started receiving small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire immediately after the bridges were blown," said Captain Howard. The three tracks were assisted by convoy security elements of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, the 3d Tank Platoon of Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, 34th Armor, and the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry's third platoon of Charlie Company.

The enemy had surprised no one but themselves.

Captain Howard's headquarters platoon and the tank platoon were quickly reinforced by Charlie Company's 1st and 2d platoons. The action flared for nearly two hours, with the tanks and tracks coming on line and driving the enemy to-

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ward the jungle, leaving 73 NVA soldiers dead in their wake and detaining three more suspects.

The convoy, which had halted on the road, remained unharmed.

Two days later, on August 14th, the NVA attacked a line of tankers returning to Long Binh after emptying their cargos in Quan Loi, 60 miles north of Saigon. The road was again outposted by elements of Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry and elements of the 2d Battalion, 34th Armor.

The enemy popped the ambush from the bushes along the roadside, 1.5 kilometers from FSB Thunder III, blowing up two 5,000-gallon fuel tankers. The convoy drivers leaped from their cabs and assumed fighting positions along the roadside. Fire was returned immediately by the machineguns of military police and the .50 caliber machineguns of the 2d Platoon, Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry.

A firefight ensued, with armored vehicles and tactical air support and helicopter gunships blasting the enemy. Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, acting as a quick reaction force, rushed to the scene, and again the enemy was driven into the jungle. Twenty enemy soldiers were killed and three Americans were wounded.

For a few days things were comparatively quiet on Thunder Road. But the enemy, after regrouping, decided to launch a third attack.

On August 20 the enemy struck another north-bound convoy from a parallel ambush. The American forces used their armor in a classic display of fire power, mobility and shock effect. Lieutenant Colonel Newell E. Vinson, of Alexandria, Va., commander of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, explained that his forces "acted like a mouse trap. And the mouse didn't get the cheese."

As the convoy traveled between FSB Thunder III and FSB Hartman, mortar rounds started landing 50 meters from the road, and small arms fire was received from both flanks from an estimated enemy platoon. The lead convoy security element took immediate action and swung to the east, returning fire as the convoy drivers floored their trucks to get out of the killing zone. But what destroyed the ambush was the immediate reaction of the 2d Battalion, 34th Armor, composed of two platoons of Bravo Company, and the Reconnaissance Platoon of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry.

The tanks which had been outposting the road in the area immediately moved toward the west and engaged the enemy. So violent was their assault that the NVA did not even have the opportunity to adjust their mortar fire.

Charlie Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry, and Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry, responded to the contact and were on hand in less than ten minutes. Charlie Company swung to the east of the road and engaged the NVA, while Bravo, mounted on a platoon of Charlie's tracks, did the same thing to the west of the road, and joined the tanks. The armored and mechanized units immediately advanced to the tree line, cutting down seven NVA and detaining two wounded enemy soldiers.

Within the ten-day period, the enemy had struck Thunder Road three times and had only the loss of 110 men to show for his efforts.

In the early morning hours of September 5, the enemy struck again. This time the attack came in the form of sappers who tried to penetrate the headquarters of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry at FSB Thunder III.

In a three-pronged assault, heavily-armed enemy groupings attempted to breach the wire to blow up artillery pieces and tracks. But because of an alert trooper of Alpha Company, one of the assault squads was found lying in the wire when he swept the area with a starlight scope. As the Americans responded with illumination and automatic weapons fire, the enemy began a premature attack. At one point the flame tracks beat back the enemy before he had a chance to do any damage. The second prong of the assault was also unsuccessful, running into determined resistance from both mechanized troopers and artillerymen.

Enemy forces assaulting from the east of the base had better luck, however. Four of the enemy managed to penetrate the wire and blow up an armored personnel carrier, but the maintenance platoon of the 2d Battalion, and men of the 2d Platoon, Charlie Company, 1st Engineer Battalion, quickly filled the gap, beating the enemy back into the wire. This attacking force was virtually eliminated as the battle raged until dawn. At dawn a sweep of the perimeter revealed 23 enemy dead, while US forces had one man killed and six wounded.

The Iron Fist troopers were soon able to avenge their fallen comrades when the next day the enemy staged another attack on the trail party of a northbound convoy two miles north of Thunder III. Alpha Company was outposting the road when an unknown number of 82mm mortar rounds landed around the highway. Small arms and rocket-propelled grenade fire soon followed, which initiated an extended firefight that found tanks, tracks, gunships, air strikes, and artillery fire countering the enemy.

Bravo Company of the 2d Battalion, 34th Armor lent a hand in dealing the enemy another blow as 55 NVA met their death.

A dust-off is made amid the turbulence of the ambush.

SP4 Stuart Richel

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TRAPEZOID III

VIETNAM BATTLES—56

The morning of August 24 started out like any other day for the infantry units of the Big Red One. Most of them were returning from their night ambush locations, others were out on sweeps of the area; many others were in the process of moving out on their missions which had to be completed that day.

Bravo Company, 2d Battalion, (Mech.), 2d Infantry, had an important job to provide security for the 984th Land Clearing Company Rome Plows, which were operating in the western portion of the Trapezoid, six miles southeast of Dau Tieng.

During the course of the early morning operation, Bravo Company spotted an estimated 30 enemy concealed in a bunker complex along the vast terrain. They immediately engaged them and the melee began.

The enemy was securely entrenched and had the advantage of cover provided by the thick woodline and tall grass that concealed their base camp. This made it difficult for the "Mech" unit to root them out of their holes. The bitter fighting continued as the Big Red One troops called in artillery, light fire teams and tactical air teams for support.

Unable to withdraw, the enemy unit was forced to keep fighting from their prepared positions. In the meantime, two platoons of Delta Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, were air assaulted into the area and reinforced the action. The "Black Lions" immediately opened up on the enemy and for a while it seemed as if they could end it right there. But the enemy still held out as darkness set in.

Assistance was again on its way for the Big Red One forces, as Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry was called in to reinforce the area.

"We were in the process of making a sweep of an area a couple of miles away from the contact. We were half way through the sweep when they told us to pull back to cover a tank in the contact area," related First Lieutenant Dan Bunnell, Montezuma, Iowa, of Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry.

The platoon leader of Alpha Company's Black Lions explained that "the tank had run over a mine earlier in the day and one of its tracks was blown off. The other tracks pulled out because it was getting dark and so we had to provide protection for it, plus help out Delta."

As the night grew darker, the enemy was spotted trying to approach the area surrounding the tank.

Alpha Company Private First Class John Wynne, Richmond, Va., was the Black Lion who first spotted the enemy.

"We were moving out from the tank in total darkness when I heard voices and knew it wasn't any of us. Then a flash of lightning bolted out of the sky and enabled us to see the enemy," he said.

"We immediately opened up on them and after an hour we finally were able to end the battle. That lightning bolt was an act of God for all of us," added PFC Wynne.

After the action, a sweep of the area was made, confirming 31 enemy dead. There were two detainees, in addition to captured food supplies and enemy documents.

Soldiers on an armored vehicle of the 1st Squadron, 4th Cavalry, are given the "V" for victory sign by a pair of Vietnamese school children.

PFC John Beard

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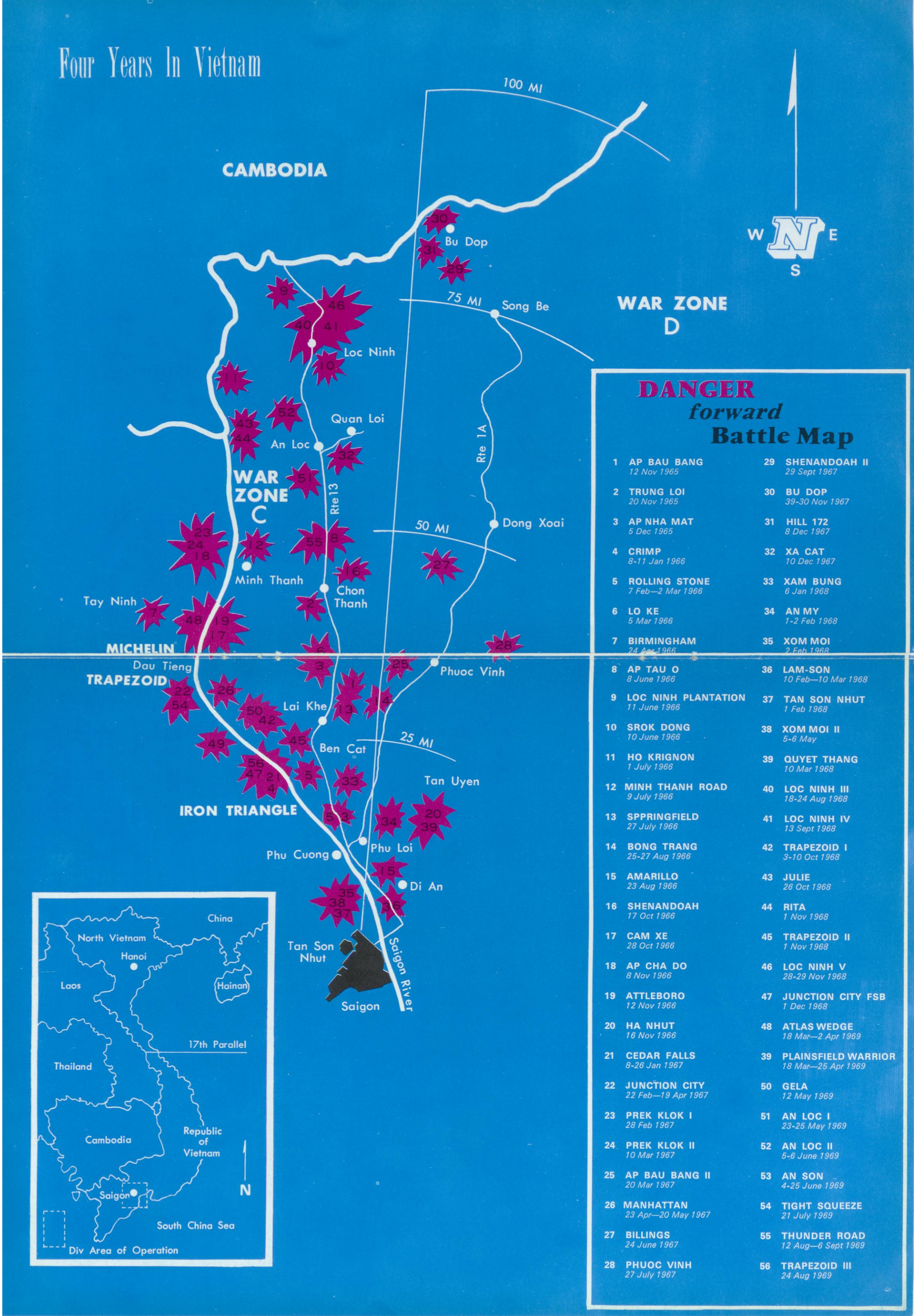
Four Years In Vietnam



DANGER *forward* Battle Map

1 **AP BAU BANG** *12 Nov 1965*

2 **TRUNG LOI** *20 Nov 1965*

3 **AP NHA MAT** *5 Dec 1965*

4 **CRIMP** *8-11 Jan 1966*

5 **ROLLING STONE** *7 Feb—2 Mar 1966*

6 **LO KE** *5 Mar 1966*

7 **BIRMINGHAM** *24 Apr 1966*

8 **AP TAU O** *8 June 1966*

9 **LOC NINH PLANTATION** *11 June 1966*

10 **SROK DONG** *10 June 1966*

11 **HO KRIGNON** *1 July 1966*

12 **MINH THANH ROAD** *9 July 1966*

13 **SPPRINGFIELD** *27 July 1966*

14 **BONG TRANG** *25-27 Aug 1966*

15 **AMARILLO** *23 Aug 1966*

16 **SHENANDOAH** *17 Oct 1966*

17 **CAM XE** *28 Oct 1966*

18 **AP CHA DO** *8 Nov 1966*

19 **ATTLEBORO** *12 Nov 1966*

20 **HA NHUT** *16 Nov 1966*

21 **CEDAR FALLS** *8-26 Jan 1967*

22 **JUNCTION CITY** *22 Feb—19 Apr 1967*

23 **PREK KLOK I** *28 Feb 1967*

24 **PREK KLOK II** *10 Mar 1967*

25 **AP BAU BANG II** *20 Mar 1967*

26 **MANHATTAN** *23 Apr—20 May 1967*

27 **BILLINGS** *24 June 1967*

28 **PHUOC VINH** *27 July 1967*

29 **SHENANDOAH II** *29 Sept 1967*

30 **BU DOP** *39-30 Nov 1967*

31 **HILL 172** *8 Dec 1967*

32 **XA CAT** *10 Dec 1967*

33 **XAM BUNG** *6 Jan 1968*

34 **AN MY** *1-2 Feb 1968*

35 **XOM MOI** *2 Feb 1968*

36 **LAM-SON** *10 Feb—10 Mar 1968*

37 **TAN SON NHUT** *1 Feb 1968*

38 **XOM MOI II** *5-6 May*

39 **QUYET THANG** *10 Mar 1968*

40 **LOC NINH III** *18-24 Aug 1968*

41 **LOC NINH IV** *13 Sept 1968*

42 **TRAPEZOID I** *3-10 Oct 1968*

43 **JULIE** *26 Oct 1968*

44 **RITA** *1 Nov 1968*

45 **TRAPEZOID II** *1 Nov 1968*

46 **LOC NINH V** *28-29 Nov 1968*

47 **JUNCTION CITY FSB** *1 Dec 1968*

48 **ATLAS WEDGE** *18 Mar—2 Apr 1969*

39 **PLAINSFIELD WARRIOR** *18 Mar—25 Apr 1969*

50 **GELA** *12 May 1969*

51 **AN LOC I** *23-25 May 1969*

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DONG TIEN

A PARTNERSHIP TOWARD PEACE

STORY BY SP4 STUART RICHEL

The ability of the Army of the Republic of Vietnam to take a more demanding part in the Vietnam Conflict has been developing within the Joint US and South Vietnamese military program referred to as "Dong Tien."

Dong Tien, or literally translated "Progress Together," is basically a simple understanding. Prior to the program, US and ARVN forces operated independently of each other. Now, an ambush patrol or a reconnaissance platoon, rather than being purely American or Vietnamese, is now a mixture of both.

Fire Support Bases within the 1st Infantry Division are being jointly manned, and in many cases comparable US and ARVN units have begun to set up joint tactical operation centers.

According to military commanders, the main scope of the Dong Tien program is to familiarize the ARVN with tactics used by the US forces, and to give them practice in the use of GI mobility, artillery and air support.

Colonel Robert Haldane, former 3d Brigade commander, explained his unit's success in working with elements of the 8th ARVN Regiment by saying, "I can personally verify that during the month of July, the combined 8th Regiment and 3d Brigade forces tripled the number of enemy killed, Hoi Chanh, detainees and weapons captured."

The former Big Red One Commander, Major General Orwin C. Talbott, now Commanding General of Ft. Benning, Ga., identified the initial Dong Tien program as one "to effect concerted, combined operations to control the enemy in the division's areas of operation, and to ultimately enable either American or ARVN forces, without the support of the other, to wage effective warfare against the enemy."

The practice of Dong Tien in the 1st Infantry Division has resulted in a number of unique cooperative efforts. At Fire Support Base Mahone, 12 miles west of Lai Khe, the Black Lions of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry live and work with ARVN troops of the 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment. The same type of communal living is in evidence at FSB Gela, 30 miles northwest of Saigon in Binh Duong Province. Dong Tien has been operating successfully here since early July.

The 4th Battalion, 8th Regiment of the ARVN's 5th Division, and the 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry have shared both the base and a common area of operations at FSB Gela.

On field operations outside the area of the fire base, a platoon of ARVN soldiers may find themselves linked with soldiers under the command of a US officer, or an American unit could be attached to an ARVN unit under the command of a Vietnamese.

Results of the partnership have been promising, according to both the Vietnamese and Americans at Gela.

"We're learning from each other," asserts Lieutenant Colonel William Parks, commander of the 2d Battalion, 2d Infantry. "We can introduce the ARVNs to our methods of operation, while they in turn can show us effective tactics in terrain with which they are intimately more familiar."

"The ARVNs are working in their own country," adds Captain David W. Arthur, Assistant S3 of the 3d Brigade. "They have a sixth sense for caches, and can at times be more observant than us."

Another officer commented, "Our men could look inside a house, see four people sitting at a table eating rice, and think nothing of it. An ARVN soldier, on the other hand, might notice that there's too much rice on the table for four people. Where are the others? Where did they go when we entered the village?"

Another benefit of the mixed operation is the ability to react quickly to information gathered from detainees or Hoi Chanh (ralliers). ARVN soldiers can conduct thorough interrogations of captured detainees on the spot. When a US unit detains a suspect, it often takes several days for him to be questioned. His remarks have to be translated.

The real benefit of the Dong Tien program, however, lies in the lessons ARVN commanders are learning in the use of American support capabilities.

Artillery support has not been forgotten in the movement toward strengthening the ARVN-American prowess. After intense training in airmobile tactics under the instruction of the 2d Battalion, 33d Artillery, a competent ARVN artillery battery now works out of FSB Mahone in direct support of 1st Brigade operations.

Not limited to a back-up role solely for ARVN troops, Battery A, 51st ARVN Battalion, lends quick and decisive firepower to any mission to which it is assigned. "This battery has shown itself to be extremely effective," testifies Major P.L. Owen, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry's executive officer.

Though Dong Tien has not been without its problems, the bugs have been minor and are being handled with increasing dexterity and composure. It is understandable then, why General Talbott considered this "the most successful cooperative program in which the Big Red One has participated."

"During July, the first month of Dong Tien, the 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment and the 4th Battalion, 8th Regiment helped us as much as we helped them. In fact, Lieutenant General Do Cao Tri, III Corps Tactical Zone Commander, has indicated that the 1st Battalion, 8th Regiment had the best record of any ARVN battalion in III Corps," explained General Talbott before he left the Big Red One.

What Dong Tien amounts to, then, is an aggressive step forward in a joint military partnership. "We feel that we are really leading the way for the whole II Field Force and III Corps," said General Talbott. "The program will definitely continue and will expand to other units in time."

Dong Tien's continuation and expansion will serve as a tool for learning and as a means of strengthening the forces which will in time inherit the burden of conflict. In the unity of Dong Tien, there is strength, a strength which will hopefully lead to a successful and lasting partnership toward peace in the Republic of Vietnam.

SP4 Chris Parsons

SP4 Chris Parsons

Close coordination is seen through the partnership between the 4th Battalion, 8th ARVN Regiment and soldiers of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry. At top, Specialist 4 Orville Gerow, a Charlie Company medic, accompanies an ARVN patrol back to the base camp safety of FSB Gela. Middle photo, Captain Wilson Russell, Charlie Company's commanding officer, offers some ARVNs helpful advice. Above, South Vietnamese soldiers conduct a sweep operation outside FSB Gela.

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Guarding the Waters

Riverine Forces and the Big Red One Working Together

Story and Photos by SP4 Stuart Richel

If the enemy was a machine, he would be subject to traditional approaches and strategies. Sophisticated mechanical devices could locate him, artillery barrages would destroy enemy concentrations and the infantry could move in to secure and maintain captured territory.

But the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces are reluctant to follow the traditional rules of war. Charlie's small size belies his strong will and strength. The enemy in sandals has proved to be elusive and scornful of textbook warfare. His approach has been one of probing, harassment and hit-and-run contact.

Because of their hit-and-run battle tactics, the American military has had to streamline operational readiness.

One area of reform is in riverine combat. Allied forces have sought to eradicate the enemy's persistent use of the waterways for transportation of manpower and supplies. Such denial is a crushing blow to an enemy already lacking in air mobility.

The insertion of infantry units to conduct riverine sweeps and ambushes has been effective. However, lacking speedy mobility on the waters, such troops have not been the complete answer. Nor was the independent use of American and Vietnamese Naval forces.

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At left, one of the advantages of the river is to eat a freshly caught fish. Above, an ever present disadvantage is the mud. Below, soldiers take time out for a swim after a mission.

PFC John Beard

Men of the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry scale the banks of the upper Saigon River on a sweep of the area.

Though able to patrol long stretches of river, riverine forces are restricted in the amount of adjacent terrain they can cover. This restriction is most noticeable when tides are low. Machineguns and other direct fire weaponry may be below the field of fire, and of no use against enemy forces moving on the shoreline.

The Allied response has been a unification of naval and land units in a joint assault on the enemy's riverine sanctuaries. While speedy patrol craft probe the myriad of small canals and inlets, infantrymen ambush and sweep adjoining areas. Such agitation results in the discovery of riverside caches and the flushing out of small groups of enemy soldiers. At the same time, infantrymen serve indirectly as a security force for the craft with which they are working.

A sharp eye can frequently spot the location of a rice or munitions cache. "I look for unusual reflections along the shore," related Specialist 4 George Holden, a marksman with the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry. "Charlie doesn't always adequately hide his supplies."

Such alertness has led the river forces to several major discoveries. A five-ton junk was found—one that intelligence reports indicated had been operating on the Saigon River for months. Several days later during the same operation, seven tons of rice were discovered near the village of Ben Chua, west of Lai Khe.

Such uncovered rice is redistributed into the homes of needy South Vietnamese families.

In a recent operation along the Saigon River, the infantrymen of Company B, 2d Battalion, 28th In-

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fantry, coupled their efforts with those of the 28th River Assault Group (RAG) of the Vietnamese Navy, and the US Navy's River Division 531.

"Our efforts are quite effective," said Navy Lieutenant Commander John Anderson, commander of the swift, fiberglass craft of the 531st. "We're making it tougher for Charlie to move about with safety and freedom. Until last fall, the Viet Cong used this stretch of river at will. This helped them move both men and supplies through the Iron Triangle, down toward Saigon."

Naval Lieutenant Richard Marquis, Senior Adviser to RAG 24, agreed with Anderson. "These joint efforts serve to deny the enemy the rivers as a means of infiltration and logistical support. In the long run, they can help prevent the occurrence of a sustained offensive in the area," he added.

Another recent operation combined the recon element of Delta Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, with River Division 593. While on normal night maneuvers, men of the craft spotted a small group of enemy soldiers attempting a river crossing. Two river patrol boats, under the command of Chief Petty Officer Bob A. Monzingo, roared out to confront the enemy with machinegun fire. The brief contact accounted for seven enemy killed, and assorted clothing, equipment and rations were confiscated.

As the combinations of Allied land and river forces continue to eliminate the enemy from the waterways, their future employment seems assured. And with similar applications of Vietnamese-American cooperation, the goal of peace in the Republic of Vietnam moves closer.

The sun sets on the Song Saigon.

One of the reasons for the huge success of the river forces is the immediate availability of awesome firepower. At far left, twin .50 caliber machineguns aboard a PBR (Patrol Boat River) scan an area for enemy activity. At left, members of the South Vietnamese Navy fire a 60mm mortar in support of an infantry operation. At right, an American soldier recons by fire with a continuous crank firing grenade launcher.

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A Missionary From Manhattan

Story by SP5 Thom Arno

Photos by PFC John Beard

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Visiting the Republic of Vietnam at the request of President Nixon, Dr. Norman Vincent Peale stopped at Fire Support Base Pagoda Inn on August 6. The 1st Division installation is located 15 miles north of Saigon.

Dr. Peale, pastor of Manhattan's Marble Collegiate Church and the acclaimed advocate of positive thinking, told Division soldiers at the base, "America hasn't forgotten you. They're in back of you. America hasn't been made by people afraid to serve, and you can read the roll from Bunker Hill to where you are today."

Peale asserted that "Vietnam will be written about and American history will say that this is the place where American freedom and religion under God, democracy under God, was saved."

Speaking to Big Red One troops from Companies A and D, 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry, assigned to the fire base, Peale said, "I wish every American could stand here today and look into your faces. We're all proud of you."

The 71-year-old Dr. Peale was attired in jungle fatigues with the shoulder patch insignia of the Big Red One. He was welcomed by Brigadier General Herbert E. Wolff, assistant division commander, and Lieutenant Colonel Hugh H. Pattillo, commander of the Division's 2d Brigade, as he stepped from his helicopter. An estimated 170 enlisted men and officers were gathered at a temporary speaking platform that had been erected only a few hours before.

Chaplain Eumid Freeman, of El Paso, Tex., led the group in singing

At far right, Lieutenant Colonel Hugh H. Pattillo, 2d Brigade Commander; and Brigadier General Herbert E. Wolff, Assistant Division Commander for maneuver, were among the worshippers during Dr. Peale's visit to FSB Pagoda Inn.

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"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross," and "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine." Dr. Peale was then introduced to the soldiers as the main speaker.

Dr. Peale, a buoyant pastor, carries on a far-flung ministry of books, broadcasts, psychiatric clinics, magazines, recordings, and pulpit and platform talks that have made him a spiritual counselor for millions of men and women.

He tosses off his post-retirement age with the forthright statement "I don't believe in old age. I never entertain any old thoughts."

"To reach young people today," he asserted, "you have to get outside the walls of the church and get into the people's homes, their hearts and their minds. It's a matter of getting religion out of the seats and into the streets."

A hearty combination of urbanity, homespun wit and common sense, Dr. Peale over the years has built up a vigorous domain of mass media methods of getting the job done.

"Wherever people gather with a sense of fellowship, you have a church. In this field, far away from our homes, we are all a church because the church is in our hearts," Peale told his audience during the special non-denominational service.

"The one great thing that has come out of Vietnam is that Catholics, Jews and the Protestants have learned to worship together. We have great things which unite us," Dr. Peale beamed at the men. "We all believe in God, the United States Constitution and freedom."

"We've got to pull up our belts and see this thing through. There is never too much to dream for. If you've stopped dreaming, you've stopped being an American. That's why you're in Vietnam, to make the dream for a better America come true."

Dr. Peale explained that he had met President Nixon while the President was on his world-wide tour, and had asked him, "What would you have me say to the boys?"

"The President," related Peale, "became very serious."

"You can tell them for me that their country loves them and that their President loves them too," he quoted Mr. Nixon. "And more important, you tell them that God loves them."

Famed author of *The Power of Positive Thinking,* Dr. Peale has written 16 other books, including *Stay Alive All Your Life, The Tough-Minded Optimist* and his latest book, *Enthusiasm Makes the Difference.*

"I don't know how many of you have problems here," said Dr. Peale. "Problems constitute a sign of life. A man with ten problems is more alive than a man with only five. If you have no problems, then pray to the Lord to give you some, or else you're on the way out," explained the minister.

"I feel the presence of God here today, fellas," he told the men at Pagoda Inn. "The planes overhead, the sky above, and you together as comrades and friends. Just keep remembering that God is with you, and make him your friend."

Dr. Peale grew up in Ohio where he was born in Bowersville, on May 31, 1898, the son of a clergyman.

As a boy, the minister resented being the son of a preacher and planned to become a newspaperman. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1920, he went to work as a reporter for the *Morning Republican* in Findlay, Ohio. From there he moved to the *Detroit Journal.*

His ambition was to own his own newspaper, but "suddenly" Dr. Peale related, he became convinced he should give up that desire and become a preacher.

Now ranked alongside Evangelist Billy Graham as "one of the nation's two best known preachers," the famed minister commented about his newspaper career briefly at Pagoda Inn. "The Bible says the gospel is the good news. So, you see, I'm still delivering the news."

Dr. Peale shakes the hand of a 1st Division soldier during his visit to FSB Pagoda Inn. The acclaimed minister made it a point to greet nearly every Big Red One soldier personally.

SP4 Anthony Hallas

The American Red Cross girls working with the 1st Division include, from left, Kathy Hansen of Denver, Colo.; Kay Wellinger of Arlington Va.; Pam McMahan of Long Beach, Calif.; Diane Kusrow of Mantes, N.C.; Mele Sturm of Sacramento, Calif.; Nancy Carracciola of McLean, Va.; Freida Luker at Uriah, Ala., Leah O'Leary of Norwood, Mass.; and Lynn Andrews of Kellogg, Idaho.

A Woman's Touch

It may be a woman's world in America, but for an American girl in Southeast Asia, femininity and a beautiful wardrobe are all but forgotten in an effort to keep pace in the man-sized world of Vietnam.

The fact that Vietnam is a man's world will draw no argument from the eight charming American Red Cross girls who reside in Lai Khe, headquarters of the 1st Infantry Division. Their special Red Cross duties in Vietnam are involved in a program labeled "supplemental recreation activities overseas" (SRAO). It's a big title for a big job that takes the young women on daily treks through the division's area of operation, where they try to lighten the burden of combat for the American fighting man.

The girls engage the soldiers in conversations about hometowns, new records on the charts, and just about any topic that will take the soldier's mind off his immediate environment. The girls carry with them a huge brown canvas bag that contains group participation games, puzzles and just enough fun to keep their visits lively until a late afternoon helicopter arrives to fly them back to Lai Khe.

The nine girls associated with the Red Cross effort in the 1st Infantry Division include Pam McMahan of Long Beach, Calif., Kathy Hansen of Denver, Freida Luker of Uriah, Ala., Leah O'Leary of Norwood, Mass., Mele Sturm of Sacramento, Nancy Caracciolo of McLean, Va., Kay Wellinger of

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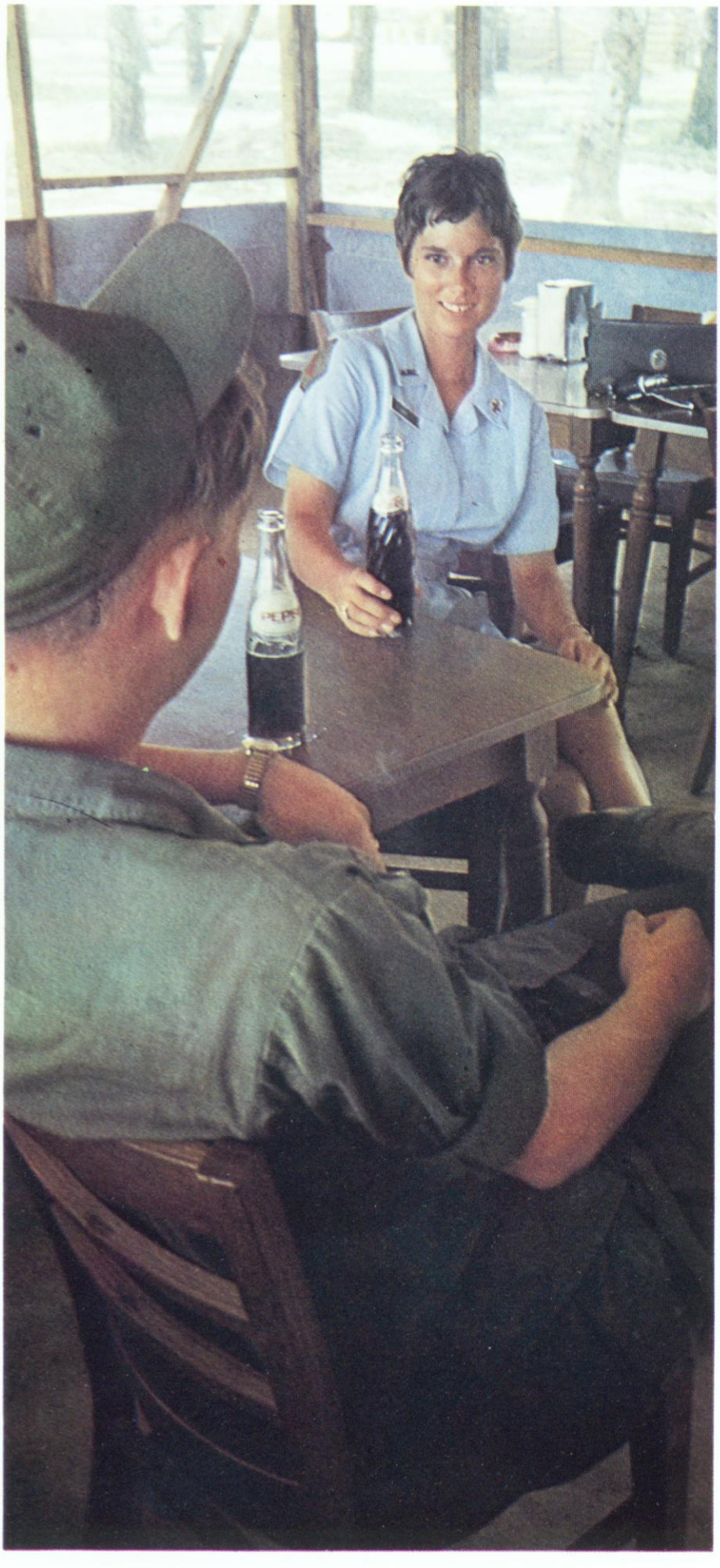
PFC John Beard



SP5 Thom Arno

At left, Pam McMahan shares a soft drink with a Division soldier in the EM club at the 121st Signal Battalion area in Lai Khe. Above, she offers a special touch during a lull in combat activity at FSB Mahone. At far left, Pam and Kathy Hansen dip into their bag of games before an avid audience at the fire base.

Arlington, Va., Diane Kusrow of Mantes, N.C., and Lynn Andrews of Kellogg, Idaho. All the girls are college graduates.

The girls sign to work with the Red Cross for one year in either Vietnam or Korea. These are the two areas of choice open under the SRAO program. Though the girls are asked to serve in those areas for the full year, they can cancel the agreement at any time and the American Red Cross will pay their transportation back to the United States.

A few years ago Pam McMahan was a college student at the University of California at Davis. Now, in a world far different from late-hour college dances and Saturday football games, she is among the select team of American Red Cross volunteers. Like Pam, most of the young women working for the movement will stay the entire year in Vietnam. Later, the girls may even choose to extend for extra overseas service.

Together with Kathy Hansen, Pam is a familiar sight at "chopper" pads during the early morning hours, trying to catch a flight to an area inaccessible by jeep.

Most of the soldiers in the field haven't seen an American girl in several months, so it's no wonder

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SP5 Thom Arno

SP5 Thom Armo

the men are at first shocked to see a twosome like Pam and Kathy hop out of a helicopter and start walking toward their area.

"It's really great to see you, and you're both a wonderful sight. But, what in the world are you doing here in Vietnam? " is the usual initial reaction to the girls.

There is at first a slight problem on the part of the men to curb their field jargon, but comments Pam, "you quickly learn to accept it all and in a while you stop blushing."

"The men may make a lot of fun out of their visits, but they're always glad to see them here," said 1st Sergeant Andrew Zimmer of Brooklyn. He is assigned to the 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry, at Fire Support Base Mahone.

"It's been so long since I've seen an American girl, it's a little difficult to know how to act," said Private First Class Gary Tucker of Greenville, South Carolina. Specialist 4 Ronald Kendrich of Bristol, Tenn., added, "It's nice just to be able to talk to a girl from back home." Both men are assigned to Alpha Company, 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry.

A brown-eyed brunette, Pam agreed that comfort did not play a big part in her decision to serve in Vietnam. She quickly mentioned she shares a two-bedroom house with the eight other girls, "and if you've ever tried to hurry in the morning when there's only one bathroom, you'll know what I mean when I say we're really tightly housed." Kathy added that there also was no hot water with which to bathe or shower.

A world traveler and once a stewardess for Trans International Airlines based in Oakland, Calif., Pam confided that several of her friends had tried to talk her out of coming to Vietnam. But, after much soul searching, she decided in favor of Vietnam. She doesn't regret the decision. In fact, she looks upon it as one of the best she's ever made.

"Being in the Red Cross, I think you learn a lot about life. Vietnam has only reinforced my idea that the American man is just about the greatest guy in the world," she said.

A graduate of the University of California, Pam has a Bachelor of Science degree in genetics.

Coming from a non-military family, Pam is unique as the only member of her family to serve in connection with the military.

Dark-haired Kathy Hansen had a friend back in Denver who had recently been with the Red Cross overseas. Eventually, the friend talked Kathy into checking out the program more closely. Kathy liked what she found and in a few short months was on her way to the National Headquarters of the American Red Cross in Washington D.C. to undergo the traditional training sessions before she could be sent overseas.

A graduate of Colorado State University, Kathy's degree is in sociology.

"The majority of the men we knew back home were in the Army and had been in Vietnam. We came to do our part," related Kathy. "I'm anxious to get back, but it's really not that bad over here," she said.

Like Pam, Kathy asserts, "I wouldn't trade these guys for anything. We both feel needed here."

Caring for and caring about people are the age-old ideals that inspired the formation of the American Red Cross effort. The story begins with Clara Barton, the "Angel of the Battlefield" of the American Civil War. The story continues to be told in girls like Pam and Kathy. Their year in the Republic of Vietnam will be a memorable one for them, and few soldiers will forget their part in bringing a little joy to the battlefield.

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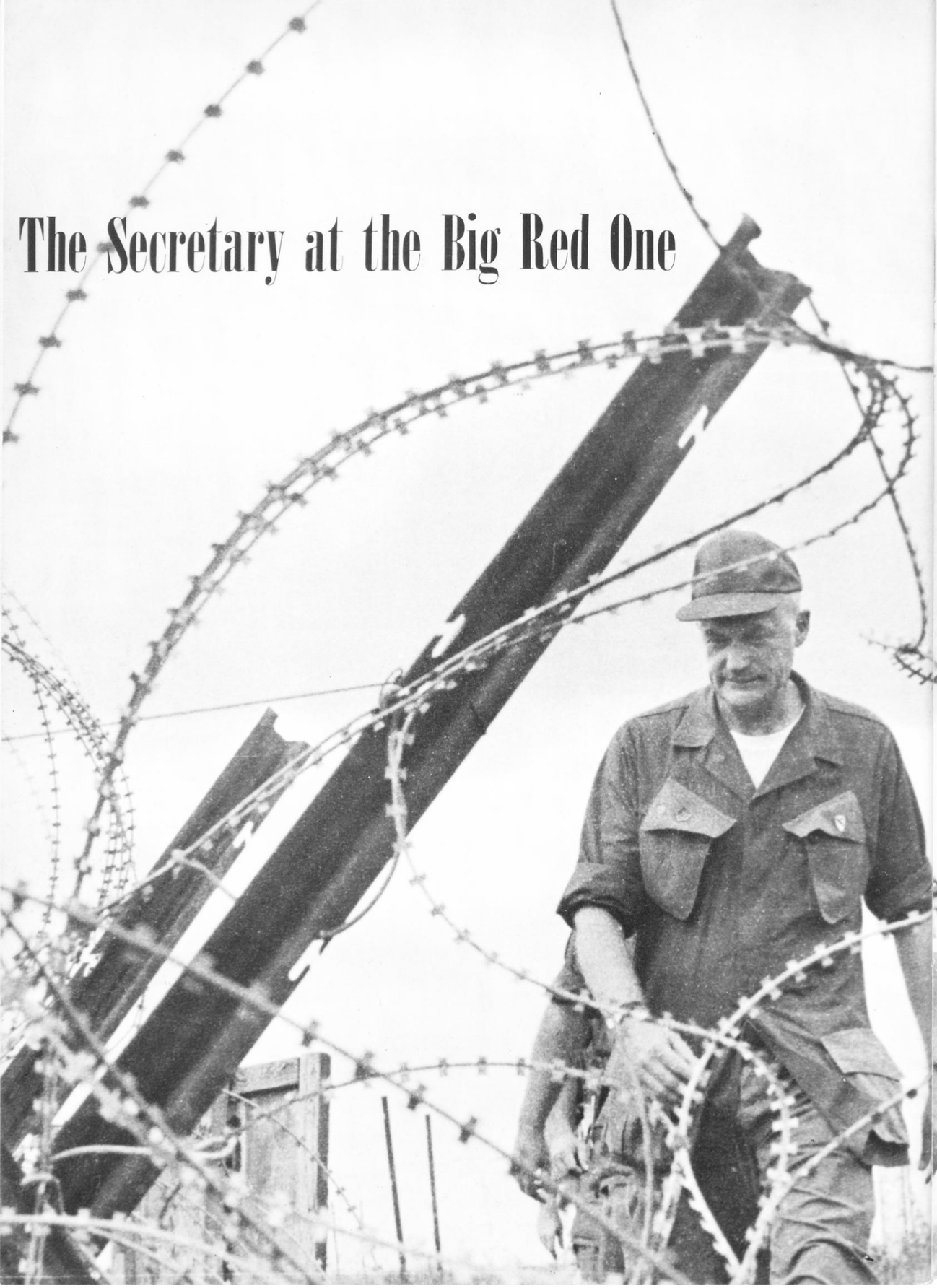
The Secretary at the Big Red One



Army Secretary Stanley Resor observes soldiers in combat

The Honorable Stanley R. Resor, Secretary of the Army came to Di An on August 23 to determine training and equipment needs within the 1st Division and to observe soldiers in combat.

Secretary Resor's August visit to the Big Red One came as part of his regularly-scheduled annual trip to military installations in South Vietnam to make first-hand decisions involving Army needs. He is the only service secretary held over from the Johnson Administration by President Nixon.

Spending the first segment of his two-day tour of 1st Division areas in Di An, the Secretary checked the progress of the USARV Advisory School to determine any foreseeable problems in maintaining the continued high standards of the Mobile Advisory Team.

Later, Lieutenant Colonel Francis X. Harrison of Chelelmsford, Mass., the school's commanding officer, explained "Mr. Resor was impressed with the fine operation of the school and the motivation and appearance of the individuals attending it."

Colonel Kenneth B. Cooper, Executive to the Secretary of the Army, explained the main scope of the Secretary's visit was "to see how the ARVN is progressing and how we can help strengthen them so that fewer US troops will be necessary in South Vietnam."

Colonel Cooper usually travels with the Secretary everywhere Resor goes and has been a constant aid to the Secretary for more than a year. The Colonel's visit to the Big Red One was particularly meaningful and nostalgic since it was the same division in which his father served during World War I.

Resor generally avoided the subject of US troop withdrawal from Vietnam, saying simply, "I fully and unequivocally support the President's policy on troop withdrawal."

On the second day of Mr. Resor's visit to the Big Red One, the Secretary was whisked from Di An to 1st Division headquarters in Lai Khe, where he was briefed on military affairs within the Division's area of operations. He was hosted by Major General A. E. Milloy, Big Red One commander, during a luncheon attended by several of the Division's top ranking officers.

Following the luncheon, the Secretary was flown by helicopter to get a close-up view of actual wartime conditions Division troops contend with daily.

The first stop on the helicopter tour was at Fire Support Base Mahone. After a short briefing Secretary Resor walked through the unit's area, talking to the officers and enlisted men of the 3d Brigade's 2d Battalion, 28th Infantry.

Before departing FSB Mahone, the Secretary was introduced to Major Chau Minh Kien of the 8th ARVN Regiment, one of several South Vietnamese Army units currently sharing the 1st Infantry Division base facilities under the Dong Tien ("Progress Together") program.

After an extended survey flight over Division areas, the Secretary's aircraft landed to get a first-hand view of living conditions at FSB Mortain. Again briefed on local movements, the Secretary was taken on a walking tour of the encampment. The same series of activities was repeated at the Secretary's next stop, FSB Venable Heights.

Secretary Resor's final moments were spent at the South Vietnamese hamlet of Chanh Luu, where he viewed the local Vietnamese people and became personally acquainted with their way of life.

Earlier, addressing 1st Division infantrymen, Mr. Resor said, "You have a wonderful record, and you make me mighty proud to be the Secretary of the Army."

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At top, Major General Orwin C. Talbott releases the colors of the Big Red One to General Creighton W. Abrams during change of command ceremonies in Di An. Major General A. E. Milloy awaits the presentation of the Division colors signaling his leadership of the Big Red One. At left, the battalion flags fly during the ceremonies. Above, General Abrams presents General Talbott with the Distinguished Service Medal for his actions as Commander of the Big Red One.

Photos by

Capt. John Kelly

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Taking Command

Major General A.E. Milloy becomes the Division's 41st Commander.

Major General A. E. Milloy became the 41st commanding general of the 1st Infantry Division during change-of-command ceremonies conducted in Di An on August 10.

Before a celebrated field of general officers, dignitaries and a colorful array of flags representing each battalion-sized unit in the 1st Division, the colors of the Big Red One were put in the hands of General Milloy by General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV Commander. Moments before, the division's colors had been placed in General Abram's hands by Major General Orwin C. Talbott, outgoing commander of the Big Red One.

General Talbott left division headquarters in Lai Khe to assume command of Ft. Benning, Ga.

Among the dignitaries attending the Di An ceremonies were General Abrams; General George S. Brown, commanding general of the 7th Air Force; Lieutenant General Frank T. Mildren, deputy commanding general, USARV; Lieutenant General Julian J. Ewell, commanding general of the II Field Force; and Vice Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt Jr., commander of US Naval Forces in Vietnam.

After the playing of the Republic of Vietnam and the United States national anthems by the 1st Division Band, the traditional invocation was given the troops by Division Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel John R. Timperley.

Following the words of Chaplain Timperley, General Abrams presented General Talbott with the Distinguished Service Medal for outstanding service as division commander since 1968. More than 200 enlisted men and officers were on hand for the event.

The highlight of the ceremony was General Talbott's departing review of the 1st Division troops. As the band played the "Spirit of the 1st Division," the general was escorted by General Milloy and Brigadier General Herbert E. Wolff, assistant division commander, to a waiting helicopter which took the general to Saigon's Tan Son Nhut Airport.

Following General Talbott's departure from the Big Red One, General Milloy returned to the speakers' platform to join General Abrams. Together, the generals left the platform and entered the 2d Brigade Headquarters Building to attend a reception in honor of the new 1st Division Commander.

General Milloy returns to the Big Red One after a three-year absence. He served as the 2d Brigade Commander from 1965 to 1966 and, prior to that, was the Senior Adviser to the 5th ARVN Division.

After joining the Mississippi National Guard in 1938, General Milloy received a direct commission in June 1941, and was assigned as an infantry platoon leader with the 31st Infantry Division. He served in World War II as company commander and battalion executive officer in the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, making three combat jumps and fighting campaigns in Sicily, Italy, Holland and Central Europe. Following the war, General Milloy became Airborne Officer on the Replacement and School Command staff at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He left in November 1946 to serve as an instructor with the Mississippi National Guard. In 1949 he became a student at the Armor School, Ft. Knox, Ky. Later assigned to X Corps in Korea as Assistant G3, he commanded the 2d Battalion, 38th Regiment and participated in six major campaigns during the Korean War.

Following the Korea War, he served in the G3 Section, Office of the Chief of Army Field Forces, attended the Command and General Staff College, and joined the 25th Division as Regimental Executive Officer of the 27th Regiment.

After graduation from the Army War College, General Milloy served in the Pentagon in the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations until July 1963. He was reassigned to Ft. Bragg, N.C., as a Battle Group Commander of the 82nd Airborne Division. After serving as Senior Adviser of the 5th ARVN Division, he assumed command of the Big Red One's 2d Brigade in 1965. Returning to Ft. Bragg, he became Commander of the US Army John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare and Commandant of the US Army Special Warfare School.

In August 1968, General Milloy went to the Department of the Army to become Director of International and Civil Affairs, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Military Operations.

General Milloy's awards include the Combat Infantryman's Badge with two stars, two Silver Stars, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts and the Master Parachutist Badge.

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Fallen Comrades

The Division's solemn tribute to a fallen leader.

PFC John Beard

Soldiers of the Big Red One once again paid their respects on August 1 to the late Major General Keith L. Ware, former 1st Infantry Division commander, and seven members of his staff who were killed September 13, 1968, when their command helicopter was shot down by Communist fire.

General Ware's helicopter crashed while he was directing his troops in a battle against North Vietnamese soldiers near Loc Ninh, a village on the Cambodian border 70 miles northwest of Saigon.

The 52-year-old general was a Medal of Honor winner and had been the former Army Chief of Information. He was believed to be the only draftee ever to rise to the rank of general. He was the fourth American general to be killed in Vietnam.

Guest of honor during the memorial dedication was the son of the late general, Specialist 5 Keith L. Ware II. The 21-year-old Ware, who served a two year hitch in the Marines before joining the Army this year, was enroute to Frankfort, Germany, for an assignment as an air traffic controller.

Speaking briefly to a few of the soldiers at the ceremonies, Ware said, "My father was his own man, and he was very proud of the 1st Infantry Division. It was his dream to command the 1st, and he was very proud of his assignment. He died happy. He died in combat, the only way anyone could see him die."

After an invocation by the Division Chaplain, Lieutenant Colonel John Timperley, the general's son came to attention and snapped a salute as the United States and Republic of Vietnam flags were lowered to half staff during the playing of "To the Colors" in solemn tribute to his father.

Young Ware stood on a reviewing stand shared with General Creighton W. Abrams, MACV Commander, and Major General Orwin C. Talbott, then 1st Division Commander. General Talbott had been the Assistant Division Commander under General Ware's command of the Big Red One.

Following the Star Spangled Banner, played by the impressive 1st Division marching band, General Abrams unveiled the tribute plaque in honor of the eight fallen soldiers.

As rain clouds threatened overhead, General Abrams addressed the assembled dignitaries in a controlled, but emotion-laden voice. The general called for a "rededication to stand up for freedom and be willing to pay the price." He told the several hundred soldiers gathered around the dedication site that "as long as you wear the uniform of your country you belong to a band

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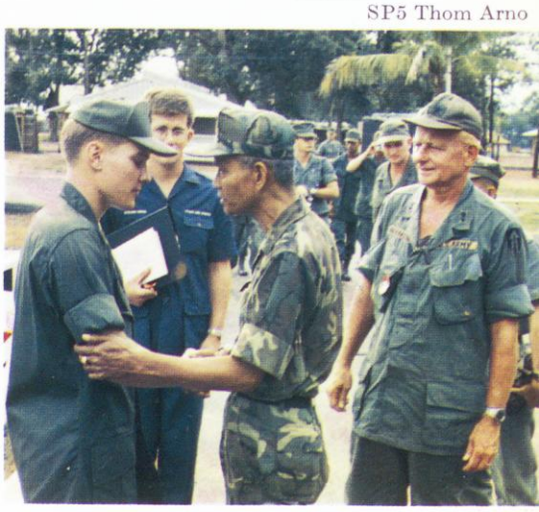
SP5 Thom Arno



of men who have paid the price for more than 200 years. It's well to think a little bit of what this is all about and to think of the others who sacrificed their lives for the cause of freedom."

The late General Ware had served with General Abrams in Europe during World War II. It was during this period that General Ware was presented the nation's highest award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

Also speaking to the troops during the dedication, General Talbott said, "We are attempting to say that we have not forgotten General Ware and those gallant soldiers who died with him. They join the long ranks of our honored dead; their dedication and sacrifice enrich the heritage of this unique division they served so well, and they set the example for those of us who carry on."

Killed in action with the general were: Lieutenant Colonel Henry M. Oliver, Assistant Chief of Staff, G4; Captain Gerald W. Plunkett, aircraft commander; First Lieutenant Steven L. Beck, aide-de-camp; Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Manzanares Jr., pilot; Command Sergeant Major Joseph A. Venable, division command sergeant major; Specialist 5 Jose D. Guitierrez-Valazquez, crew chief; and Specialist 4 Raymond E. Lanter, door gunner.

Top Photo, General Abrams offers his personal words of admiration to the memory of Major General Keith L. Ware. At right, the late general's son meets Brigadier General Pham Dinh Lam-Son, Deputy Commanding General, Capitol Military District; and Major General Walter B. Richardson, Commanding General, Capitol Military Assistance Command. Below, Major General Talbott, General Abrams and Specialist 5 Keith L. Ware II pause in front of the plaque unveiled in honor of the fallen leader and the men who died with him.

PFC John Beard

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Lieutenant Dennis Lee

AN ARTIST'S VIEW

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SP4 Peter Mutmansky

Koichi Ando

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ONE 1 LINERS

Currently undergoing tests at Ft. Benning, Ga., the M-16 rifle is being adapted to house cleaning gear in its rifle stock. The modified stock will add three-quarters of a pound to the weapon's weight.

Miniguns that spew out 2,000 rounds per minute are now being mounted on Light Observation Helicopters (LOH) in Vietnam. This has literally made the small aircraft, "The mouse that roars".

Relaxed social security requirements for disability benefits now allow young people to qualify. Case in point: 19-year-old soldier with only three months pre-military employment. Eligibility determined by age and dates of disability or death.

More than 56,600 soldiers have qualified for high school diplomas or equivalency certificates through the Army's General Education Development Program, with 734,885 course completions reported. GED is operated at 291 education centers around the world, including Vietnam.

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird announced August 5 that the Department of Defense has employed more than 48,000 youngsters from the ages 16 to 21 thus far this year in the Summer Employment Youth and Project Value programs. The Department of Labor supplies the funds for the program under the Economic Opportunity Act. Upon completion of training and civil service qualification, they are employed in regular, entrance level Civil Service positions.

The Division's Sons of the Big Red One Scholarship Fund has on sale many items that are mementos of your unit and the Big Red One. Proceeds from the sales provide $1500 scholarships for sons whose fathers have given their lives while serving with the 1st Division. Support your scholarship fund today!

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Miss New Jersey
Linda Wilmer
Photo by SP5 Thom Arno

Sergeant Stephen R. Spears of Oakland, Calif., walks silently through weeded fields while on a sweep operation south of FSB Thunder II. He is a member of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 28th Infantry.

Photo by SP4 Chris Parsons

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